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OLD MILLS
OF
CAMDEN COUNTY

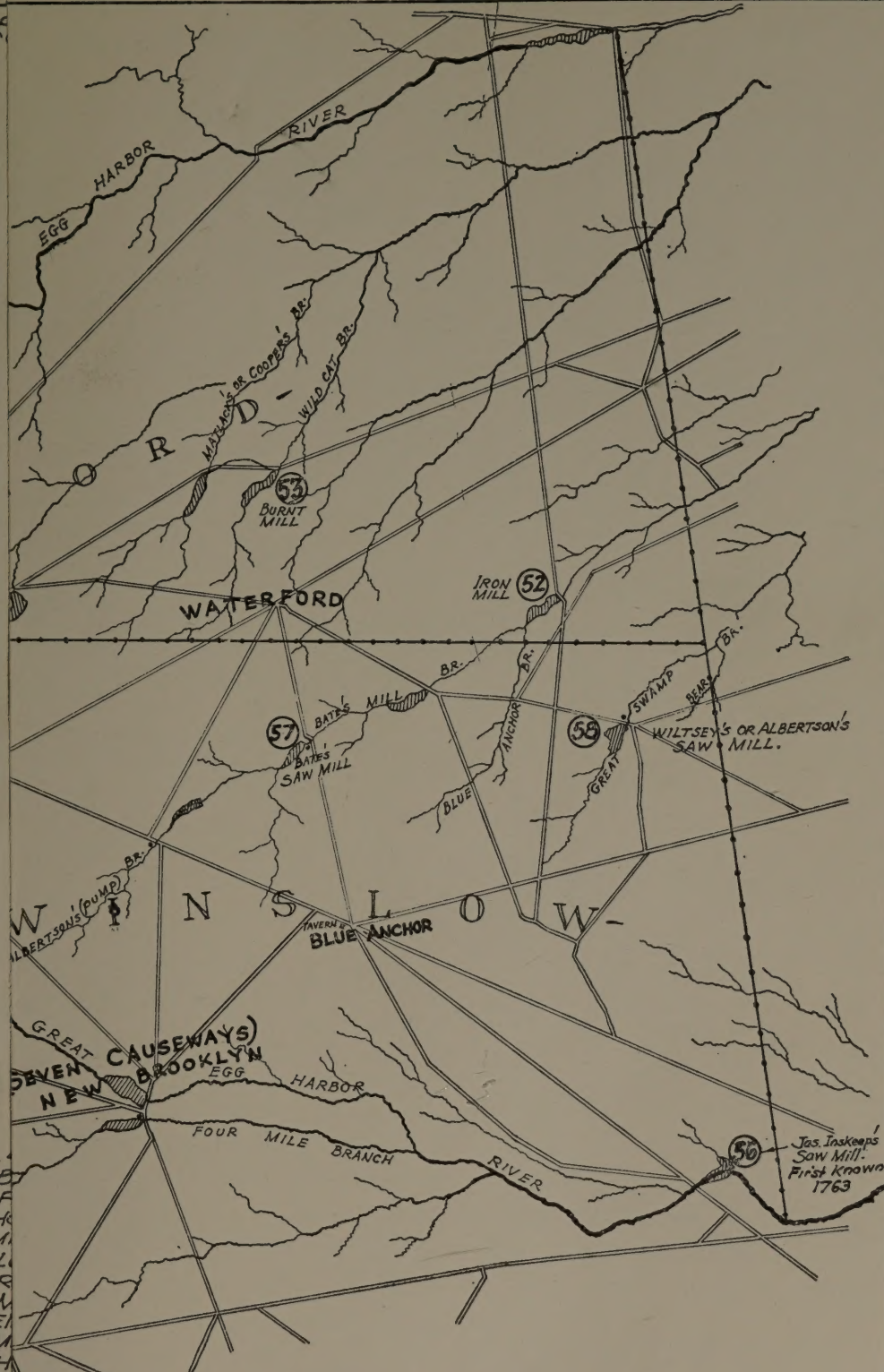
By CHARLES S. BOYER



CAMDEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1962

Map on 5



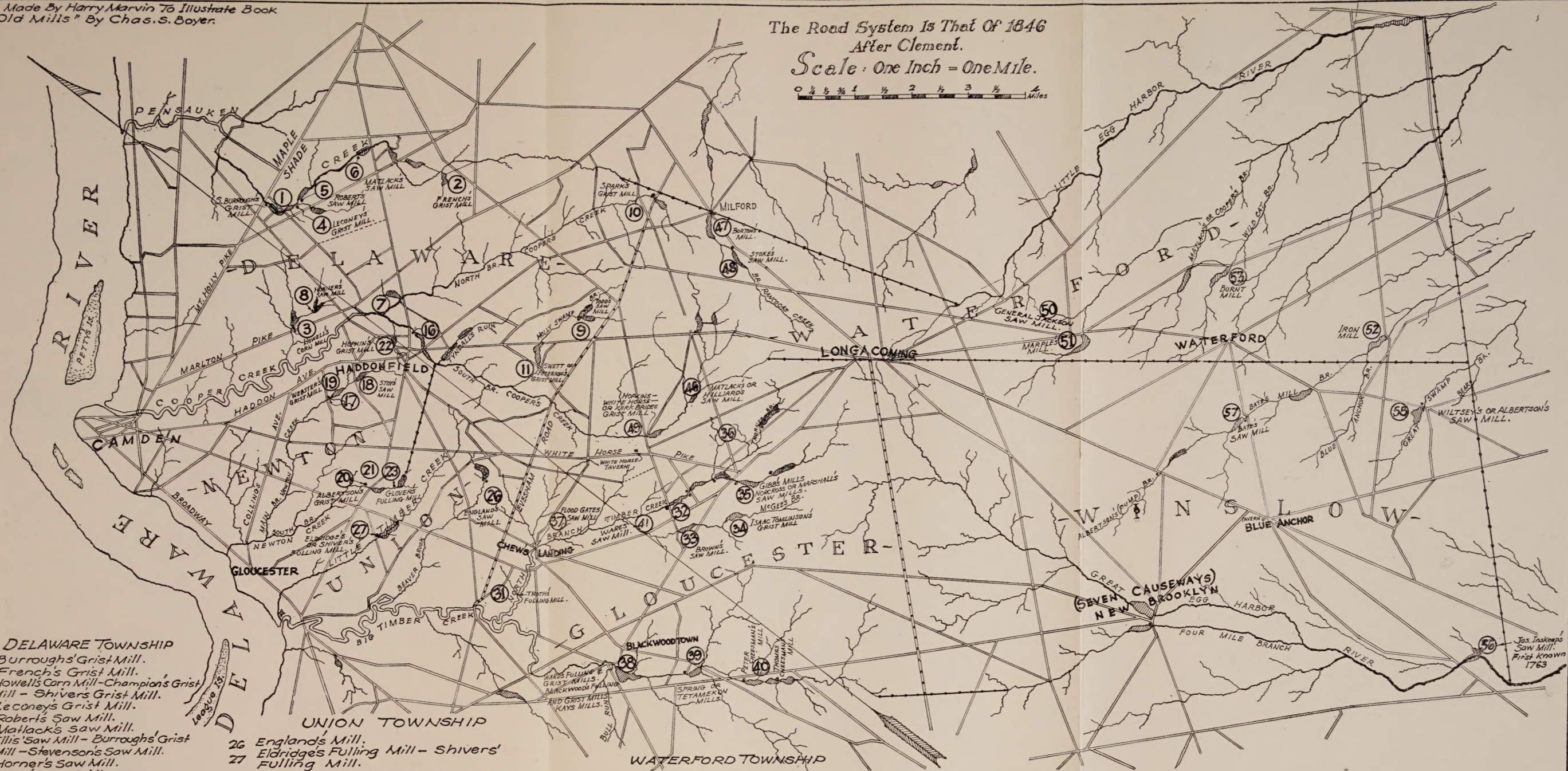
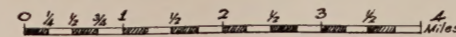
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— ANCIENT MILLS —
 of Camden County
 and their successors



Map Made By Harry Marvin To Illustrate Book on "Old Mills" By Chas. S. Boyer.

The Road System Is That Of 1846
After Clement.
Scale: One Inch = One Mile.

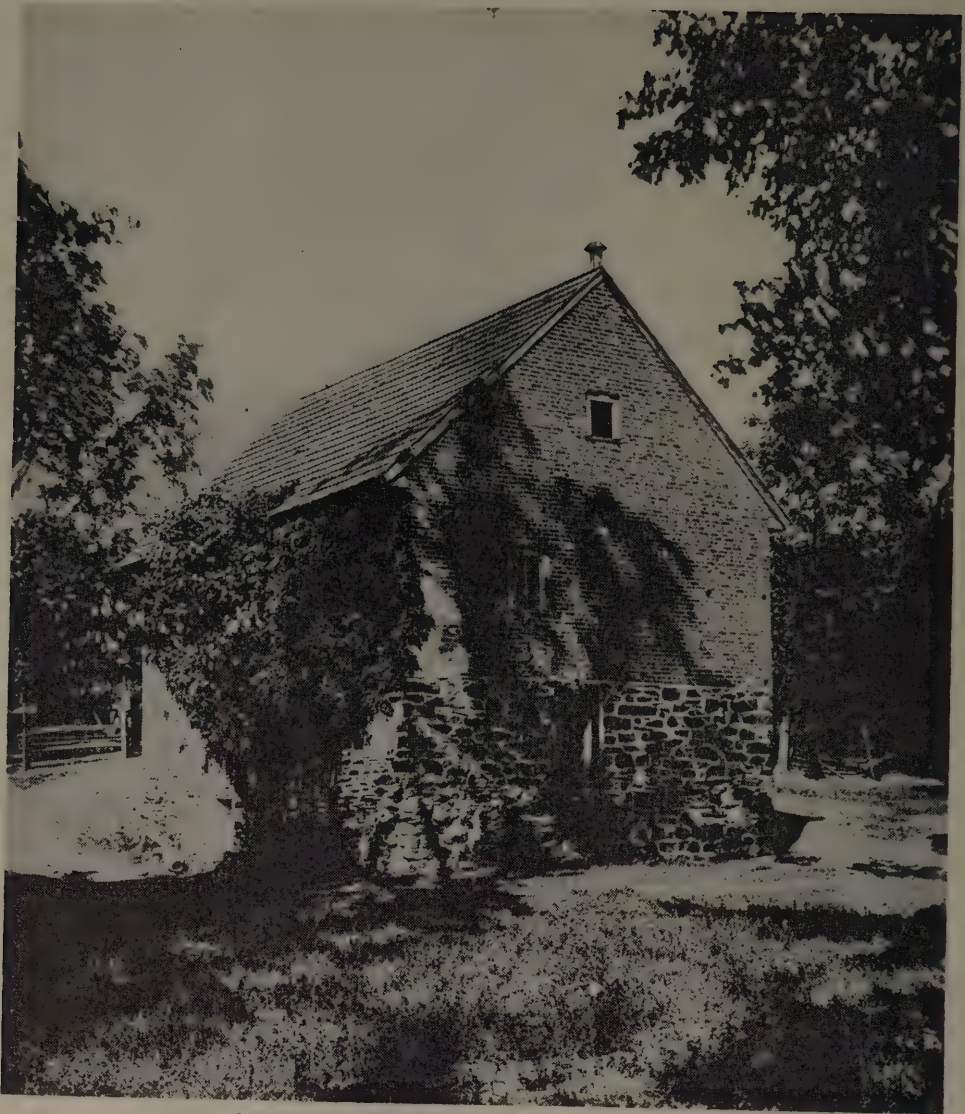


- DELAWARE TOWNSHIP**
- 1 Burroughs' Grist Mill.
 - 2 French's Grist Mill.
 - 3 Mill - Shivers Grist Mill.
 - 4 Leconey's Grist Mill.
 - 5 Roberts' Saw Mill.
 - 6 Matlack's Saw Mill.
 - 7 Ellis' Saw Mill - Burroughs' Grist Mill - Stevenson's Saw Mill.
 - 8 Horner's Saw Mill.
 - 9 Todd's Saw Mill.
 - 10 Sparks' Grist Mill - Hopkins' Grist Mill - Matlack's Grist Mill
 - 11 Sweig's Grist Mill - Peterson's Grist Mill - Kay's Grist Mill.
- NEWTON TOWNSHIP**
- 16 Kendalls Corn Mill - Kay's Grist Mill - Evans' Mill.
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 - 18 Stays Saw Mill.
 - 19 Webster's Grist Mill.
 - 20 Albertson's Grist Mill.
 - 21 Breach's Grist Mill - Horveys Grist Mill.
 - 22 Hopkins' Grist Mill.
 - 23 Glover's Fulling Mill.

- UNION TOWNSHIP**
- 26 England's Mill.
 - 27 Eldridge's Fulling Mill - Shivers' Fulling Mill.
- GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP**
- 31 Troth's Fulling Mill.
 - 32 Hillman's Saw & Grist Mills - Tomlinson's Saw & Grist Mills.
 - 33 Brown's Saw Mill.
 - 34 Isaac Tomlinson's Grist Mill.
 - 35 Gibbs' Mills - Norcross's Saw Mill - Marshall's Saw Mill.
 - 36 Thorne's Saw Mill.
 - 37 Flood Gates Saw Mill.
 - 38 Wards Fulling & Grist Mills - Blackwoods Fulling & Grist Mills - Kay's Mills.
 - 39 Spring Mills or Tetamekon Mills.
 - 40 The Cheesman Grist & Saw Mills.
 - 41 Wares Saw Mill.

- WATERFORD TOWNSHIP**
- 46 Matlack's Saw Mill - Hilliard's Saw Mills
 - 47 Barton's Mill - Milford Grist Mill.
 - 48 Stokes' Saw Mill.
 - 49 Hopkins' Grist Mill - White Horse Grist Mill - Kirkbride's Grist Mill.
 - 50 General Jackson Saw Mill - Richard's Saw Mill.
 - 51 Marples Saw Mill.
 - 52 Iron Mill.
 - 53 Burnt Mill.
- WINSLOW TOWNSHIP**
- 56 Inskeep's Saw Mill.
 - 57 Bates' Saw Mill.
 - 58 Wiltse's Saw Mill - Albertson's Saw Mill.





GLOVER'S FULLING MILL (No. 23)



LECONEY'S GRISTMILL (No. 4)

OLD MILLS
OF
CAMDEN COUNTY

By CHARLES S. BOYER



CAMDEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1962

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PREFACE

Charles S. Boyer's interest in the history of Southern New Jersey and his research into the lesser known aspects of that history continued throughout his lifetime. His published articles and works on the subject are well known to those sharing his interest. His search for information about early mills in New Jersey was unfinished at his death on November 10, 1936, but the results of his investigation were recorded in a partially completed preliminary manuscript. Such manuscript was retained by his widow, Anna DeRousse Boyer, until her death on August 14, 1958. In accordance with direction in her will, it is published in its incomplete form to make the historical data therein publicly available.

Mills in Early Days in New Jersey

When the early settlers arrived in America, whatever property they had been able to gather together had been used up in the expense of the voyage across the ocean, or in buying land upon which to settle in the new country. It is estimated that it cost, in those days, four hundred dollars for a single fare across the ocean. The only hope of making a success of their venture was to as speedily as possible, by indomitable pluck, energy and industry, change the unbroken forest which they found here into an agricultural paradise.

While it is quite true that skilled workmen, including brick-makers, sawyers, millers, tanners and weavers, were among the earliest arrivals in New Jersey, the necessity for shelter and food were of primary importance and it was some time before they embarked in any of their trades requiring special buildings and machinery. Lumber or logs needed for their habitations were the product of their own manual labor and the handy broadax, draw-knife and plane, the bricks for chimneys, or houses were made from clays in the immediate vicinity of their homes, the skins of animals were home-cured, dressed and fabricated into articles of clothing and even nails, or other iron articles, were crudely forged on the plantation.

The virgin soil when cleared of trees proved to be fertile beyond the fondest hope. Within a few years their uncomfortable poverty was transformed into prosperity and plenty. It should be remembered that the early colonists in New Jersey, at least, settled along the watercourse of the creeks and rivers, where the soil would be invariably rich and productive. To prove the rapidity with which the new settlers became quite prosperous, let us examine some of the early inventories of their estates. The following, taken at random, indicate how well they fared, thus the estate of Marmaduke Coate, in 1728, consisted of two farms in New Jersey, five hundred acres in Pennsylvania and a personal estate of £1253, of which £679 was in bonds, bills and book debts; William Cooper had, besides extensive tracts of land, £710 in

bonds and mortgages, cash and plate; Michael Newbold had an estate of £771, of which £250 was a debt due in England; Henry Tredway, in 1725, devised an estate of £338, including £247 in bonds and bills.

THE INDIANS AND THE CORN MILLS

The Indians, whom the early settlers found here, ground their corn by hand, the process being described by Peter Kalm, in his "Travels into North America" vol. I, pp 41-44, as follows:

"THEY (the Indians) had *stone pestles*, about a foot long, and as thick as a man's arm. They consist chiefly of a black sort of a stone, and were formerly employed, by the *Indians*, for pounding maize, which has, since time immemorial, been their chief and almost their only corn. They had neither wind-mills, water-mills, or hand-mills, to grind it and did not so much as know a mill, before the *Europeans* came into the country. I have spoken with the old *Frenchman*, in Canada, who told me, that the Indians had been astonished beyond expression, when the French set up the first wind-mill. They came in numbers, even from the most distant parts, to view this wonder, and were not tired with sitting near it for several days together, in order to observe it, they were long of the opinion that it was not driven by the wind, but by the spirits who lived within it. They were partly under the same astonishment when the first water-mill was built. They formerly pounded all their corn or maize in hollow trees with the above mentioned pestle, made of stone. Many Indians had only wooden pestles."

The new settlers for some time followed this primitive method of making flour, taking their cue from the natives.

EARLY HAND MILLS OR QUERNS

While it is known that many of the emigrants brought with them hand mills or querns, it is known that they soon turned their attention to the erection of power driven mills. However, a brief description of these early hand mills will not be out of place, as showing the transition stage between the "mortar and pestle" method and that of the water wheel driven millstones. These were set in a square frame. The top stone revolved by hand on an iron pivot set in a block of wood driven into a hole

in the center of the lower stone. The pointed pivot rested in a fixed iron strip across a two-inch aperture in the top stone, the distance between the stones being adjusted by iron washers on the pointed end of the pivot. Through the two-inch hole in the top stone the grain to be ground was fed by handfuls and the ground product came out from around the edges of the stones. A short handle about one inch in diameter and five inches long was rigidly set in a hole near the circumference of the upper stone.

ENGLISH REGULATION OF COLONIAL MILLS

There were some isolated and scattered instances of gristmills and sawmills having been established prior to 1700, but it was not until after this date that the mother country became quite jealous of her colonies, because of the likelihood of the competition with home production. The English merchants became alarmed at the prospect of America being self-supporting.* They had always supplied a larger part of the needs of the colonists in the way of manufactured goods and proposed to hold this trade. In order to discourage the establishment of any manufacturing, or trading which might be prejudicial to the commercial interests of His Majesty's government many acts were passed by Parliament. After the Treaty of Utrecht, which ended the Queen Anne's War, in 1713, the American Colonies, became, more than ever, a market to be prized by the English trader and manufacturing here did not fit in well with the British industrial policy. Every sort of obstacle was placed in the way of colonial trading. The exportation of cloth, made in the homes of the farmers, was prohibited even to the neighboring colonies. The poor farmers' wives could spin and weave all the cloth they wanted for use in their own households, but were by law prohibited from sending it to markets outside the colony in order to obtain either cash or commodities needed at home. The mechanic could work up the lumber on his plantation into barrel staves but, likewise, was pro-

* How far this opposition was approved by the English Lords is not known. The privileged corn mills on the large estates in England and Scotland were profitable franchises. All the tenants of the manor were bound to bring all their corn and grain to the manor mill and the miller was allowed to take out the usual toll for his service. In fact, this practice existed in some parts of England and Scotland as late as 1850. Permitting the establishment of free mills in the colonies would, no doubt, have strengthened the opposition to the privileged mills in England, for it should be said that this monopoly was a great sore to the English peasantry. (Notes & Queries May 24, 1879).

hibited from sending them to neighboring colonies, or across the seas without paying a tax to the government, and even then it had to be shipped in British vessels. Hendrik Van Loon says in "America" (p. 158) that

"Whether they liked it or not they must sell everything they produced in English vessels and through English intermediaries although Dutch or Spanish merchants in Dutch or Spanish markets might offer them much better prices than their own countrymen. With the exception of such tools and agricultural implements as they could fabricate on their own farms, they must buy English-made goods or go without."

This was an irritating situation and the cause of many protests, but, so long as the English merchants had the "ears" of Parliament, nothing could be done about it. The dominant theories were that "the profits of trade should be shared between the colonists and the mother country" and that the colonies should confine themselves to the production of raw material and buy their manufactured goods from England.

Sir William Keith writing to the Secretary of Trade in London, November 27, 1728 (*N. J. A. 1st Series, vol. 5, p. 203*) says:

"nor did I ever hear, the Woolen Cloth had been made in any of the Plantations otherways, Than that every Farmer is by Industry led to employ his spare time in working up the wool of the few sheep he is obliged to keep on his Farm, for the Improvement of this Land, for the use of his Family, and in a like manner he often Raises a small Quantity of Flax, which is broke or dress'd commonly in the Winter season and Spun into Course Cloth by the old Women and children, for the same use."

From another letter written to the same government offices the following extracts are taken:

"Their Principal Product is Stock and Grain and Consequently their Estates depend wholly upon good Farming, and this cannot be carried on without a Certain Proportion of Sheep (which in good Pasture there, Lamb twice a Year and every Ewe generally brings two and often three Lambs) so that the Wool would be lost, if they did not employ their Servants at odd times, & chiefly in the Winter Season to work it up for the use of their own Families."

“An Acre of Flax which will produce from 1000 to 1500 wt is easily raised, and coarse Cloth made of it, will do twice the Service of Cloth of the same finess that comes from any part of Europe which in like manner leads the Industries Farmers to Employ his Intervals of time in making up small parcels of such coarse cloth for the use of his Family.”
“The Old Women and Children, fit for no other Business about a Farmer’s House, are made useful in Carrying on a little Manufacture for the Service of the Family, & by this means also every one is Constantly Employed within or without doors, let the Weather or Season be ever so bad.”

By the middle of the eighteenth century most of the restrictions placed upon local industry had either been replaced, or entirely ignored. Manufacturing took on a new force, but to insure the proper delivery of merchandise, various standards were set and inspection provided, as we still see under the several classifications herewith given.

THE CORN OR GRISTMILL

The most romantic of the early mills was the “corn mill” or gristmill. Its setting along the side of some babbling brook in a country which was, or soon would be, cleared and planted in grain and corn, made it a focal point for all the settlers. The farmers visited the gristmills many times during the year, either in the interest of the household, or to get feed for his cattle. It is for this reason that we will first turn our attention to the gristmill, which, it should be added, sometimes also had a sawmill operating from the same water power.

No sooner had the early colonists arrived on the shores of the American continent and “put their houses in order,” so to speak, than the gristmill sprang up.* In some localities the gristmills were built by or through subsidies which the ingenious millwright secured from the communities. For instance, the Woodbridge gristmill was built by Jonathan Dunham in 1670, after the town had agreed to give him £30 for the improvement and all of the sod out of the meadow he might need to build his dam. (Dally, “Woodbridge and Vicinity,” p. 17).

* John Bethell is styled miller in a deed to Elthner Cornok dated June 1, 1686 (N. J. Archives, I: XXI, p. 664). On June 24, 1690, there was entered on the records a recantation of Samuel Taylor of Gloucester River sawyer, of calumnies told about John Ladd and his wife, Sarah. (N. J. Archives, I: XXI, p. 656).

It is quite evident that the prospective profits did not always entice some settler to build a gristmill and the community itself began the work, thus we find in the minutes of the Town Meeting of Newark, under date of March 9, 1668/9, the following:

“Item—The Town saw Cause, for the Incouragement of any amongst them that would Build and Maintain a Good Mill, for the supply of the Town with Good Grinding, To offer and *Tender* freely the Timber Prepared for that use, Twenty Pounds Current Pay, and the Accommodations Formerly Granted Belonging to the Mill, viz: 18 Acres of upland and 6 of meadow, with the only Liberty and privilege of Building a Mill on yt Brook; which Motion was Left to the 12th of this Mo Current at Even, and the Meeting is adjourned to that Time: And in Case any desire sooner or in the mean Time, to have any further Treaty or Discourse, about his or their Undertaking of the Mill, they may repair to Mr. Trent, Deacon Ward and Lieutenant Swain, to prepare any agreement between the Town and them.”

Records of the Town of Newark, New Jersey (Collection of the N. J. Hist. Soc., Vol. VI) p. 16.

It later appears that no one came forward to accept the Town's proposition. It was then decided that the Town should build its own mill.

That the early gristmills were extremely small affairs is attested by the output of the one erected by Governor Printz, about 1645, on Cobb's Creek in Pennsylvania. It is said that it was able to grind three bushels of wheat per day and, even then, the resultant flour was unbolted. These mills were driven by water power, the water wheels, at first, being operated by the rise and fall of the tide and later by the constant flow of the water over or under the blades of the wheel. Other types of operation were by horse power (horse mills) and by windmills. It is safe to say, however, that the majority of these mills depended upon the constant flow of water for their power.

The dams of the constant-flow types were, in olden days, always constructed of logs and generally the lower or base logs were the full width of the stream. On these base logs, shorter ones were then laid at right angles and next a log across the stream laid on these and the process continued until the desired height

was reached. Over the top of this framework, heavy planking was fastened to provide a passageway. Through this timber wall was a sluiceway built of logs, leading to the water wheel.

MILLSTONES

The first millstones must have been crude affairs. The native stones in West Jersey were not ideal for this purpose, but were the best that were available and were used until better stones could be gotten, either from abroad, or from nearby localities.

In an early record book in which were generally recorded deeds and sometimes wills, mortgages, leases and commissions, we find the following unusual item:

“Receipt. Thomas Parsons to John Tatham, for one pair of millstones delivered to James Budd for the use of Daniel Cox: John Tatham declaring the conditions fulfilled. Dated July 7, 1689. Sept. 17, 1694”

West Jersey Records, p. Liber B. Part II, p. 703.

This indicates that millstones were considered of unusual importance and worthy of being permanently recorded.

That millstones were an article of commerce is shown in numerous notices in the newspapers of the times. In the *Pennsylvania Packet*, and *Daily Arbitor* of April 2, 1788, Peter Barrier & Co., advertised “Mill-stones made of French Burrs; some of which are of the best and hardest sort, and some of the common kind. The first has been imported into this state from *Bourdeaux* and the other from Harve de Grace and both made into mill-stones in Philadelphia.” “The burr of the first kind of stones was warranted at least 12 inches thick: they are of different sizes from 4 feet to 4 feet 6 inches.” In the same paper for July 11, 1788, Robert Lewis & Sons advertised “Burrs of excellent quality, just imported from France and manufactured into mill-stones of all sizes and dimensions which may be ordered, by a complete workman from England.” They announced that “directions would be given (if required) for laying out the quarters and dressing them.” One part of this advertisement of particular interest was that there was another kind of stone on the market

called Cologne Millstones (commonly called Cullings) imported from Holland and also country-made millstones from American rock.

The millstones were from six inches to two feet in thickness and circular in shape, the size varying with the size of the stone slabs. The earlier ones were not over two feet in diameter and the later ones as much as seven feet. The crude stones were hewn and chiseled into shape by smoothing off one side to make a flat face for one of the grinding surfaces and then the opposite side was chiseled off to make it parallel with the face. This flat stone was then chipped circular and two belts cut around the edges for the iron hoops binding the stones, one of these was at the top and the other at the bottom edge. These hoops were made by the local blacksmith. Among the early products of the ironworks were plates made especially for this purpose, the fabricated plates making it easier for the smithy to make these hoops. After being shaped, the next move was to make the furrows in the upper and lower stones so that the ground grain could be led away from the center of the stones. These furrows required skill and knowledge of the industry. They were picked in the stone by means of the "millpicks," a hammer-like tool with both ends of the head drawn down to a wedge shape. Another purpose of these furrows was to allow air to pass between the stones and carry off the heat generated by the grinding friction.

Around the millstones was built a circular wooden box with a cover in the center of which was a large hole through which the grain was fed. The purpose of this box was to collect the finely ground meal and the bran as it came from the stones. It was, at a little later period, conveyed to the bolting mills—a series of sieves to separate the ground product into various grades of fineness.

It should be borne in mind that the millstones always travelled in pairs, "a run of stones," the lower one stationary and the upper one, or "runner," revolving on it. It was on this basis that the gristmills were assessed in New Jersey, the rate being fixed, by law, at so much per run of stones and no valuation placed on the building in which these were placed.



TOMLINSON'S GRISTMILL (No. 32)



ISAAC TOMLINSON'S GRISTMILL (No. 34)



CHEESMAN'S GRISTMILL (No. 40)

THE MILLER'S TOLL

The miller soon realized the importance of his position and the utter dependence of the people upon him. He was a common object of popular satire and the formation of an old game played by American children in which the following was used:

“There is a thief in the mill!
Who is he? Who is he? Who is he?
The miller! the miller! the miller!”

Another old version ran:

“Happy is the miller, who lives by himself,
All the bread and cheese he piles upon the shelf,
One hand in the hopper, and the other in the bag,
The wheel turns around and he cries out, Grab.”

Because of this situation, he was not always scrupulous as to the charges he made for grinding his customers' corn or grain and often took excessive tolls. To eliminate this practice, the General Assembly of West Jersey, in 1696, passed a law “for rectifying the unreasonable taking of tolls” which provided “that no miller within this Province from and after the publication hereof, shall for the grinding of any quantity of any manner of corn or grain, (take) more than one tenth part of the same.” And it was further provided that “if any person or persons shall be found offending herein, upon complaint made, and the fact being proved before one justice of the peace, and upon his certification to the next court, the offender shall then and there be fined answerable to the magnitude of the offense, and the discretion of the said court.” (*Leaming & Spicer, p. 547*).

The corn, or grain before it reached the mill had expended upon it a vast amount of manual labor, first in the sowing, then in the cultivating and reaping and finally in the shelling and threshing. Before taking up the millwork, let us study briefly the processes of shelling and threshing. In the early days, the kernels in the ears of corn, after the husk had been removed, were taken from the cob by means of any sort of makeshift instrument with a sharp edge. The kernels were scraped from the cob, each cob being pressed against the sharp edge and moved up and down. These scrapers might be made from an old case knife blade, a piece of broken scythe, or a flax hatchel fastened in some firm handle.

This was soon superseded by the crude corn-sheller, which consisted of a round log, twenty to twenty-four inches in length and tapering from twelve at the smaller end to fourteen or fifteen inches at the larger end, through a hole in the center of which was an iron axle ending at one end in a crank. This cylinder was studded with iron points and was set on bearings in a heavy wooden frame. Running parallel with the length of the cylinder was a piece of board fastened to thin hickory upright sticks fastened at the bottom and which could be adjusted by wooden screws through the bottom rail of the frame, so that the boards pressed the ear of corn against the revolving cylinder. As the cylinder revolved the iron spikes would pick off the kernels and drop them under the machine, while the empty cobs passed out at one end.

For the threshing of wheat, the flail came into play. This has been called by Mrs. Rawson in *Little Old Mills*, "the human fist." It consisted of a long round wooden handle to one end of which, by means of a thong, a shorter piece of wood was joined. By raising the handle high up in the air and then dropping it forward to the ground, the flail, or small thonged end, would fall heavily on the grain stalks spread on the barn floor and beat the grains or seeds out of the bearded head. This was later followed by the threshing machine, the power for which was provided by the horse-operated treadmill.

THE PLASTER MILL

Analogous to the gristmill was the plaster mill, which, while of a later date, was in general appearance not unlike the grinding machinery of the miller. The chief difference in the equipment was that the stones used in the grinding were set farther apart than for grain and the grooves or channels on the stones were broader and farther apart. How early the plaster mill came into vogue, history does not definitely state, but in West Jersey it was in operation at least as early as 1810-1820. The richness of the soil and the ease by which large crops could be obtained, Peter Kalm says "has spoiled the English and other European inhabitants, and induced them to adopt the same method of

agriculture which the Indians made use of;" With the formation of agricultural societies and the spreading of more scientific information on their calling, the farmers of New Jersey began to recognize the value of plaster to the ground. As far as known, there were only two plaster mills in that part of old Gloucester County now within Camden County. The one is described in the following pages, but the other one established by Edward Browning & Brother at Camden was too late to be included, since its first advertisement is dated March 4, 1846.

THE SAWMILL

The next class of mills of importance in early colonial days was the sawmill. The cutting down of enough of the primeval forests was the first consideration of the pioneer settlers, first to provide material for their shelter and secondly to secure suitable ground for tilling. This work which at that time was not done with any idea of building up an industry soon showed these people that there was, in fact, a potential source of income to be derived from the excess lumber which they had cut down through sale in the nearby markets. It was the first available product from which to obtain the money or credit to continue their agricultural pursuits. However, as in the case of the gristmills, it was often necessary for the community to offer some special inducement for someone to embark in this business. In 1683, Jonathan Bishop, a carpenter, was admitted as a Freeholder of the very close corporation of the Town of Woodbridge and "granted a parcel of common land, in consideration of his building a sawmill on it alongside the southern branch of the Rahawack (Rahway) River. The mill is to be exempt for five years from town taxes. The price of Jonathan's initiation as a Freeholder is fixed at 30s 'in good pay.'" (*Dally's, Woodbridge & Vicinity*, p. 93; *N.J.A. First Series*, XII, p. 5).

THE FRAMED PIT SAW

At first, these sawmills were crude affairs merely consisting of some kind of a frame covering over the saw pits in which the men work so that the operation of sawing could be continued in all kinds of weather. At this time the sawing was done by the

so-called "framed pit saw," an instrument consisting of a rectangular frame of wood, four or five feet in length and three to four feet in width, and between the cross members of which a narrow saw blade was tightly fastened by two iron buckles or shackles, in much the same way as the joiner's frame saw. The saw was much thinner than the open saw and thus wasted less wood in the cutting and offered less resistance in sawing. With a man standing on top of the log another one stood in the saw pit to control the motion of the saw. As the demand increased for sawed lumber the old handsaws gave way to the up and down sawmills driven by water power. This type of saw was similar in some respects to the framed pit saw but travelled in fixed upright channels which steadied its motion and was geared to a crank revolving directly on the end of the horizontal timber carriage, which in turn, ran on cogged rails meshing with cogs on the underside of the carriage and was pushed towards the saw by levers attached to the movable carriage. Under this new improvement, one thousand feet of boards could be cut in a day instead of 150-200 feet by the old pit saw method.

THE EARLY POWER SAW

In a note to Thomas Budd's "Good Order established in Pennsylvania and New Jersey," published in 1685 and reprinted by William Gowans in 1865, mention is made of a sawmill in use in Virginia about 1650. This machine consisted of four, five, or six saws sprung in a strong rectangular frame of the framed saw type and travelling in upright guides on either side. This gang of saws was driven by a crank on a revolving shaft attached to the water wheel. The log rested on a sliding carriage "on certain wheels with teeth," and moved a certain distance at each up and down stroke of the saws. In this mill were two weights of 200-300 pounds hung on a rope running over small pulleys and fastened to the end of the carriage in the direction of its motion towards the saws. The purpose of these weights was to keep the log pressing against the saws and hasten the operation. This was probably an advanced process, for most of the early mills only had one or at most two saw blades. The next cycle includes the familiar circular saw, which came into general use in 1840-1850, and the band saws belonging to the 1870 period.

While there were, no doubt, some pit saws in use in South Jersey, it is safe to assume that they were soon superseded by the upright sawmill and that all of those mills now known were of this, or of the circular saw type.

SWAMP MINING

In the early records of West Jersey are found innumerable conveyances of swampland which were valuable for their growth of white cedar, which Professor Weygant says "Americans cherished as they cherished their Bible." The price paid for these lands was determined by the estimated amount of timber on them and often brought considerably higher prices than either meadowland or acreage under cultivation. The product from these swamps in the shape of boards, cedar rails, posts and cordwood was for many years an important item of commerce of this State.

In connection with the swamplands there was a now almost extinct industry, namely the "swamp miner." Quite a profitable part of some swamps was found to be the cedar trees which had fallen over and for many years, been buried deep in the mud. While many of these, it is quite true, were partly decayed and worthless, others, which laid there buried under tons of water, were as good as any of the standing timber. This gave rise to a specialized trade known as cedar mining. The miner, as he was called, would sound out the good logs with a long iron rod and, when found, by means of a sharp instrument get a chip from it. "By the smell of the wood he could tell whether it was a wind fall or a breakdown," that is, whether it had been blown down while still living, or broken off after it had died or partly decayed. It was the former which invariably proved the best. It is said that an experienced miner rarely failed in his diagnosis and could tell the life history of the log. It does not matter how long the cedar trees had laid under water it was never water logged. The bark on the under side looked fresh as if it had lain only a few days.

When located, the branches and limbs of this buried log, were trimmed off, the roots loosened and the base and top cut off by means of a saw attached to a pole twenty-five feet or more with

a handle. All of this had to be done by feel, as the log was then many feet under water and mud. The next operation was to free the tree trunk from the mud by means of a long iron lever and when this was done, the log would, at once, come to the surface. These logs were especially valuable for making shingles, chests and paneling.

Another of the important products of these swamplands was the cooper's stuff which was made from this timber. In 1737, the following prices were paid for various kinds of lumber by the cooper:

Barrel staves	8	shillings	per	100
Hogshead staves	10	"	"	"
Pipe staves and headings	15	"	"	"

In 1769, sawmills were assessed at the discretion of the assessor, not under 10 shillings nor over £5.

TIMBERLAND REGULATIONS

As early as 1707 (*N. J. Archives, 1st Series, vol. XI, p. 24*) the General Assembly adopted an act preventing the illegal cutting of timber under the growth of twelve inches in diameter, under a penalty of five pounds for each offense. Following this, the Assembly, in 1714, passed a law to prevent "ill disposed Persons (who) of late have made very great Waste in destroying Timber, Pine Trees and Poles, by cutting, falling, working up and carrying away of Timber, as well as by boring, extracting of Turpentine, upon not only the Lands belonging to the Proprietors in general, but to others in particular, within this Province, which unjust Practices will not only render the Lands where such wastes are committed of little Value to the Owners, but will also prove a very great mischief to the Inhabitants of this Colony." The penalty prescribed was twenty shillings for each tree "so cut and worked up, boxed, bored or carried away." For every pine or cedar pole so cut down or carried away the fine was ten shillings. And to prevent, as far as possible, the destruction of the forests, it was enacted that all pipe and hogshead staves exported to neighboring colonies should pay a tax of thirty shillings per thousand for the former and twenty shillings per thousand for

the latter. This was subsequently amended or re-enacted on several occasions to include all kinds of timber and staves, with various duties imposed. In 1772, it was provided "that no staves, headings, hoops, shingles, Timber and Boards should be put aboard any vessel for export beyond the seas before being regularly inspected by a person designated by the Justices of the City, town, or district from whence the exports are to be made."

SHINGLE MAKING

Sometimes in one corner of these early sawmills was a section set apart for working up such pieces of timber as were not suitable for boards, into shingles. The equipment here was extremely simple and consisted of a broadax, a beetle or maul, a frow or riving iron, a shaving horse and one or two draw knives. The logs were cut crosswise into suitable lengths, then with the beetle and frow split into pieces of the thickness of the shingle desired. Finally while these pieces of wood were held firmly in the shaving horse they were smoothed on one side and one end and one edge were tapered down for overlapping. A skilled workman could make from 600 to 800 shingles a day. At the market price of early days these shingles brought sixteen dollars per thousand. These shingles have a particularly long life, some of them having been known to have been exposed to the weather for one hundred and fifty years or more.

FULLING AND CARDING MILL

Another of the very early industries in South Jersey, but following the sawmill, was the fulling and carding mill. At first, the cloth made from the homespun yarn and woven on the household hand looms was finished in the home. It was soon found, however, that this could be done better by an experienced workman, both for its appearance and wearing qualities. These goods had to be treated so that the texture is rendered closer, firmer, and stronger (shrunk) and this could be done only by long training. Thus came into being the milling or fulling stocks. This consisted of a large heavy wooden vat for holding water, with heavy oaken beams suspended from the ceiling above and which were,

by mechanical means, either raised and lowered into the trough, or moved laterally against the ends of the trough, so as to pound the cloth back and forth, or up and down. The water had to be just the right temperature to secure the best results and required plenty of soap or "fuller's earth" to cleanse the cloth of all dirt, grease and stains. The cloth was next spread out to dry in the open field and, so that it would not shrink any further, it was firmly fastened to a frame, which, though more heavily constructed, resembled the old-fashioned lace curtain frame, this process being called tentering.

Before the cloth, however, was put in the fulling mill it was carefully gone over and the heavy knots, slubs (uneven yarn) and foreign matter, such as seeds and burrs that had not been removed before or during the spinning and weaving, were picked out with hand tweezers. After the fulling, the nap which had been pounded down in the tubs was raised by going over the cloth with teasels. These teasels were the product of a burr-forming plant and fields of the fuller's teasels were usually found adjacent to the fulling mill. The quality of the finished cloth depended very much upon the care exercised in teaseling.

The natural color of the cleansed wool was not generally adaptable for clothing and the early housewives often would dye the yarn, or at least part of it, before weaving and then send it to the fuller, who, in turn, just as often "stripped" this color in the ordinary course of his treatment. The homemade dyes being largely obtained from native plants and the bark of trees, would seldom stand the harsh treatment of the fulling, except where indigo was used. To overcome this the fulling mill often also had a dyehouse attached to it, where ingredients impracticable for home use were employed and secret formulas put into effect.

Rather than have their handiwork entirely ruined, the settlers soon came to realize that the dyeing was just as much the work of a specialist as was the fulling. In these establishments vast vats of indigo dyes were kept ready and shades from the lightest blue (or blue white) to the deepest of navy blues were obtained from the same vat, depending upon the length of time the articles were allowed to remain in the liquid. Other colors were obtained

by the use of logwood, cochineal, quercitron bark and many of the berries, bark and leaves of the fields. Besides their tendency to fade and to yield to alkali, the native vegetable dyes varied much in their color density, depending on the season of the year, or the character of the growing season. The brown of one time of the year would come out a tan at another time, even though the coloring substance had been taken from the identical tree, shrub or bush in each case. The dyer with his more precise methods and the use of standard coloring material was able to produce more accurate shades and more lasting tones. He soon obtained the trade of all the more progressive inhabitants. His establishment, save for size and modern mechanical equipment did not differ much from the present day dyehouse, but, of course, the dyeing materials now used are entirely different.

Some of the early Quakers railed against the common practice of wearing dyed clothes. Affecting the doctrine of plainness, they believed that dyed garments were hurtful and were indicative of the fondness of following the changeable modes of dress. During the last ten years of his life, John Woolman, the famous Quaker, adopted undyed clothing for his raiment, and there were many other Quakers who followed his example. This, however, did not prevent the rank and file of the inhabitants from having the cloth used in their garments colored to suit their tastes.

Now for some of the early mills in what is now Camden County, formerly part of old Gloucester County. According to the assessors' returns of 1783, there were fifty-one sawmills, twenty-six gristmills and two fulling mills in old Gloucester County (then including the present Atlantic and Camden Counties). The task of sorting out those mills which were located in what is now Camden County has been no small one. Their records are gone and it has only been by intensive delving into old deeds, wills, road returns and the files of early newspapers that any headway could be made. However, because of incomplete information, some of the sites can today only be approximated. The frequent changes in ownership of the mill properties has greatly handicapped the story of many of the early mills, but it is hoped that enough has been set down to arouse a further interest in their history.

No. 1

BURROUGHS' GRISTMILL

Waterford now

Delaware Township

The Samuel Burroughs' (Burrows') Mill on the south branch of Pennsauken Creek, about 350 feet south of the Camden-Mount Holly Road, was built at an early date. In 1698, Samuel Burroughs, then a resident of Burlington County, bought a tract of 300 acres on the south side of the south branch of Pennsauken Creek and, by subsequent purchases, became the owner of over 2,500 acres of land in this vicinity. The mill was built by Samuel Burroughs, son of Samuel, senior, and not, as stated by some historians by Joseph.

The first notice, so far located, of this old mill is in an advertisement in the "Pennsylvania Gazette," April 5, 1770, in which a number of the inhabitants of Chester (Burlington County) and Waterford (Camden County) Townships announced that they would apply to the next session of the Assembly for authority to build a dam across the south branch of Pennsauken Creek "from the corner of William Wallace's land, on the west side, to lands of William Rudderow, on the east side, of said creek, above the said William Wallace's lower corner, and Samuel Burrow's grist mill." The announcement stated that any person who had objections to the same were desired to take notice accordingly.

In 1816, a considerable quantity of timber on the lands of Samuel Burroughs, including many fine old oak trees, were uprooted by a cyclone which coursed through his woods. These were soon fabricated into ship timbers and sold to the yards along the Delaware River. One of the finest of these huge logs measured seventy-four feet in length and was shaped like a ship's keel.

It was hand-hewn, placed on trucks and hauled to Cooper's Creek to be forwarded to Philadelphia. It was used as the keel

for the United States sloop of war "Seventy Four," the name coming from the length of this keel piece.

The mill was in constant use until about 1830, when it was destroyed by fire. The milldam went out following a severe rain storm in 1836, and was never rebuilt. Until within the memory of the present generation, the remains of the old dam were still visible.

In 1850, there was another mill operated by Cole a short distance above the old Burroughs Mill, but nothing is known of its history.

No. 2

FRENCH'S GRISTMILL

*Waterford now
Delaware Township*

What was later known as Scattergood's Gristmill, on the Evesham Road (White Horse to Fellowship), at the point where it crossed the south branch of Pennsauken Creek, was originally built by Charles French, Jr. When it was built is not known, but it was before 1785, in which year he died. Of its builder, who was called "straight roads" French, many amusing tales are told. His penchant for building straighter roads than had been the custom, made him many enemies, especially when these new routes cut through some choice field of meadow, or grain. When engaged in laying out a new road, he would become so absorbed in his work as to entirely forget where he had left his horse, and his faithful old servant was often sent to some distant point to bring back the forgotten animal.

Richard Wilkins was operating this mill in 1849 and David Scattergood in 1855. The latter died in 1867 and soon after this the mill was abandoned. The farm on which it stood was owned by Albertson C. Lippincott about 1875.

No. 3

HOWELL'S CORN MILL
 CHAMPION'S GRISTMILL
 SHIVERS' GRISTMILL

*Waterford now
 Delaware Township*

Mordecai Howell, between 1690 and 1693, erected a corn mill on a small tributary of Cooper's Creek, just east of the old Marlton Pike (now State Highway No. 70) and west of the Locustwood Cemetery. In 1687, Thomas Howell, the father of Mordecai, began the erection of a dam along Cooper's Creek with the intention of erecting a mill, but this work was stopped when the Grand Jury indicted him for obstructing the stream. The son, Mordecai, however, three years later erected a dam on a small creek, long known as Mill Creek, emptying into the north branch of Cooper's Creek, and built the long deferred mill. To prevent any further litigation, or indictments, Mordecai Howell, in 1693, obtained a deed "for the water rights for a cornmill on a branch of Cooper's creek, running through the lands of John Wright." (*Gloucester County Deed, Liber G, No. 3, p. 13*). The land of John Wright, son of Richard Wright, was purchased in April 1691, from Daniel Howell, son and heir of Thomas Howell, and Mordecai Howell, executor of Thomas Howell, deceased (*Gloucester County Deeds, Liber G, No. 2, p. 115*). Howell's Mill is mentioned in connection with the old Burlington-Salem Road as relaid by the Assembly in 1704. (*Journal and Votes of the House of Representatives of N. J., 1703,* p. 30).

In a few years, the property, which consisted of 330 acres and was called "Livewell", passed to Henry Franklin, a bricklayer of York, (*Gloucester County Deeds, Liber G. No. 3, p. 122*). It was described as on the north side of Cooper's Creek, along Mill Creek, between lands of John Wright, John Chivers (Shivers), Henry Johnson, a brother-in-law of the grantor, and Cooper's Creek.

The property, including the mill, came to John Champion in 1700 and was operated by him until 1718, when he divided it

between his two sons Robert and Nathaniel. Robert Champion resided on this tract until about 1725, when he moved to Philadelphia where he died in 1727, leaving one son Peter. The latter married Hannah Thackara, daughter of Benjamin and, after her death, Ann, daughter of Simeon Ellis. A short time before his death, Peter Champion conveyed the property including the water power to John Shivers. The gristmill had probably about this time gone down and Shivers erected a sawmill on the land.

The old Shivers house is well known and, while the present building is not the original, it is probably on the same site and close by the millpond, the remains of which is still visible.

After the mill went down, the Shivers house became a tavern and as such appears in an application for a license in 1779. According to tradition this house was one of the regular stopping places for the Tuckerton Stages and changes of horses were generally made here.

No. 4

LECONEY'S GRISTMILL

*Waterford now
Delaware Township*

About the year 1838, Reuben Roberts built a gristmill in the northwest part of Waterford Township. It is located on the south side of State Highway Route No. 38, where this highway crosses a branch of the south branch of Pennsauken Creek. The mill is still standing and has recently been used as a "tea room" and all of its machinery removed.

After a few years, the property passed to Richard Leconey who died in 1889 and it was then owned by Thomas Andrews. It has been abandoned as a gristmill for many years.

Chalkley Matlack says that when a small boy he was often sent to Leconey's Mill with grain to be ground. The grain was delivered at a door on one side of the building and the finished product at a door on the second floor, to reach which he had to climb a very steep hill, which was always the terror of the visiting farmers.

No. 5

ROBERTS' SAWMILL

*Waterford now
Delaware Township*

On the southerly side of the south branch of Pennsauken Creek, a short distance southwesterly from Maple Shade, Samuel Roberts built a sawmill in the early part of the nineteenth century which was in constant use down to about 1900. The site is a few hundred yards north of State Highway Route 38 and is now part of the roadway known as Columbia avenue.

About the middle of the century, Reuben Matlack operated this mill for its owner, Samuel Roberts, who was a nephew. In 1877, it was owned by Enoch Roberts. Nothing is now left of the old mill, but the millpond is still clearly visible and the location of the dam can be definitely pointed out.

This was a custom-mill and when the lands in this vicinity were being cleared was a busy place. The farmers as they cut down the trees would bring the logs to the mill to be sawed into boards which were then used in building barns, outbuildings and new houses.

No. 6

MATLACK'S SAWMILL

*Waterford now
Delaware Township*

About 750 feet west of the King's Highway on the south branch of Pennsauken Creek, the Matlacks had a sawmill at an early date. The origin of this mill is not known as the earliest authentic date for it is 1818. Whether this is the same mill mentioned in the will of George Matlack, styled carpenter, and dated May 22, 1761, proved May 6, 1766, is not known. In this document, the son George was given the plantation of 100 acres upon which the father lived, except what was reserved for a sawmill. The mill and one acre of land was devised to his three sons, Thomas, William and George.

In any event, the first known owner of the mill property is Asa Matlack and it has since been in this branch of the family, passing through various devises to its present owner, Chalkley Matlack.

The following recollections have been furnished by Mr. Chalkley Matlack and give a good idea of the old mill and its workings:

“It was a long narrow frame structure, partly open on one side for the admission of logs, and was covered by a peaked roof made of boards of varying widths, extending from peak to eaves, which in the latter years were thickly covered with moss and lichens. The entire length of the floor was occupied by a wooden track on which moved backwards and forwards a framework called ‘the carriage,’ a contrivance for supporting the log during the process of its being converted into boards. In case the log was an unusually long one, there was a drop-door or shutter at the back end of the mill, where the end of the carriage could move outside through the opening. The big upright saw was worked by a water-wheel laid across the entire width of the creek in front of the forebay. It was about twelve feet long, two in diameter and was turned by the water striking it at the back thence passing under it and across the shelting . . . By the side, but a little back from the saw, was a tread-wheel, whose use was to return the carriage to its original position after each ‘cut’ in the log was finished. In Asa Matlack Sr’s time that wheel worked by foot power, a rather slow and irksome operation which his son, Asa Jr., avoided by constructing an ingenious horizontal water wheel that especially served for working the carriage, and became known as the ‘go back’ wheel. Under its power the retrograde motion was accomplished with much greater facility and rapidity. The large head blocks at either end of the carriage on which the ends of the logs rested, made very tempting seats for the children to sit upon during operation and ‘have a ride.’ . . . Before the mill was rebuilt, Asa had a pump-boring machine under the mill, but he had no need for it after the change and the machine was sold for old iron. The work of boring the hole in the pump-stick was very interesting, especially to children who listened to the cutting made by the odd scoop shaped auger and wondered how such a crooked instrument could go so very straight in its passage through so long a log; and they

enjoyed seeing the turned end for end on the little turntable at the further extremity of the track. The wooden track was in two sections, and when not in use, the part to which the turning-table was fastened was taken up and put under the shelter of the building . . . The mill was rebuilt at the time when the telephone had just been invented, and Asa bought one and established a line of communication between his house and the mill which worked successfully several years."

From about 1880, the sawmill was very little used and in 1899 was torn down.

This mill is not shown on either Gordon's Map of New Jersey (1828) nor on Clement's Map of Camden County (1846), but a mill is shown on the southerly side of Church Road where it crosses the Pennsauken Creek. In one case, however, it is placed in Burlington County, while in the other it is shown in Camden County. It is quite evident that the Matlack Mill was not a commercial mill, but operated almost entirely for or at the convenience of the Matlack family. On Hopkins' Map of Delaware Township in 1877 it is shown as on the farm of Mordecai Matlack.

No. 7

ELLIS' SAWMILL
BURROUGHS' MILL
STEVENSON'S SAWMILL

*Waterford now
Delaware Township*

In 1691, Simeon Ellis purchased of Francis Collins two hundred acres of land lying on both sides of the Burlington-Salem Road and bounded by the north side of the north branch of Cooper's Creek (*Gloucester Deeds, Book C, p. 127*). Clement says he built his log cabin near the stream and but a short distance from the road and that all his children were born at this place. Four years later, Ellis bought four hundred acres adjoining his first purchase. These first purchases include what is now the village of Ellisburg in Delaware Township and are almost equally divided by the King's Highway and the Marlton Pike. After his death the homestead estate made up principally of the

two purchases above mentioned were held in common by his sons Thomas, William and Simeon, but in a division in 1754, Thomas obtained three hundred and nineteen acres of the western part. It was on this land that the sawmill was built probably at or about the time of the division, and his house was located a short distance away.

The first entry in the Gloucester County Road Books is dated March 2, 1762 and is for the return of a road "Beginning at the Mansion House of Thomas Ellis at a Road laid out by his Grist Mill in the said Township of Waterford" and extending from the place of beginning in a general northwesterly course "to the New Road lately laid out and leading from Burlington to the Cooper's Ferry." (*Gloucester Co. Road Book A, p. 1.*) This was the first survey of the Marlton Pike.

Two days later the surveyors laid out a road from Thomas Ellis' Mill to the King's Road leading from Haddonfield to Burlington. This began at Thomas Ellis' lane and ran in a general southwesterly direction past the west side of the millpond and by the mill to the creek.

The mill was west of the King's Highway and south of the Marlton Pike and derived its power from a small stream flowing into the north branch of Cooper's Creek. It was operated by Thomas Ellis until 1766, when he sold most of his property to Joseph Collins, who apparently never operated the mill. The next owner was Samuel Burroughs. In a road return of May 4, 1772, "the little House of Samuel Burroughs" and "Samuel Burroughs Grist Mill" are mentioned and were 200 feet apart (*Gloucester Co. Road Book A, p. 52*). When Samuel Burroughs of Waterford Township died in 1774, he devised to his wife the "use of my present dwelling, that is one-half thereof, at the mill; also £20 yearly, to be paid by my sons, Joseph and Samuel." The mill descended to son Joseph.

The mill is best known to later generations as "Stevenson's Mill", after Joseph Stevenson. He conducted it until his death in 1853 and it then descended to his son Joseph T. Stevenson. It was abandoned about 1870, although the old buildings were visible for many years thereafter.

No. 8

HORNER'S SAWMILL

*Waterford now
Delaware Township*

In 1772, Isaac Horner's sawmill is mentioned in connection with the road which afterwards became the Marlton Turnpike (*Gloucester Co. Road Book A, p. 51*). In the will of Josiah Shivers, dated August 22, 1780, probated October 11, 1780, he devised his plantation "situate between John Shivers and Isaac Horner, where I now live," to his son Marmaduke. To this will his neighbors, Samuel Burroughs and John Shivers, Jr., are the witnesses. What became of this mill, which was located on a tributary of Cooper's Creek between the one on which Shivers' Mill was located and that furnishing the power for the Ellis Mill, is not known. It was certainly in operation until 1785, the year of his death.

No. 9

TODD'S SAWMILL

*Waterford now
Delaware Township*

In 1785, William Todd advertised a farm of 7-800 acres for sale agreeing to take in payment "Public Securities of all kinds, at their current values, Paper Money issued for the payment of interest on public debts, or the Revenue Money of New Jersey and Pennsylvania." On this tract was "a new long saw-mill with a great flow of water, allowed to cut as fast as any in the state, within three miles and a half of a landing: there is a blacksmith's shop, and three other dwelling houses for the accommodation of a tenant, sawyer and team driver."

It was located twelve miles from Cooper's Ferry near the present Coffin's Corner and was the same tract which Joseph Matlack, heir of Richard Matlack sold to William Todd in 1779 and was later owned by Richard M. Cooper, now called Woodcrest. During the Matlack ownership there was no sawmill on the plantation, as evidenced by the above advertisement in which it is called a new mill, nor is any mention made of it in the will of Richard Matlack.

❧ No. 10 ❧

SPARKS' GRISTMILL
 HOPKINS' GRISTMILL
 MATLACK'S GRISTMILL

*Waterford now
 Delaware Township*

On a tributary of the north branch of Cooper's Creek near the Clement's Bridge-Evesham road was a gristmill known as Sparks' Mill. This is mentioned in a road return of 1812, when a road was laid out between the one "lately laid out from George Sparks' Gristmill to Clement's Bridge" and the road leading from "Clemington to White Horse Tavern." This was for a long time known as the Sparks' Mill Road. (*Gloucester Co. Road Book B, p. 122*). It was again mentioned in the return of July 16, 1819, for a road near the White Horse Tavern. (*Gloucester Co. Road Book B, p. 250*.)

This mill was built by John Sparks near the close of the eighteenth century. It was later operated by George Sparks and then came to Marmaduke B. Hopkins, when it was known as "Hopkins' Mill." It was later operated by Charles Matlack.

When Delaware Township was formed in 1844, all that portion of Waterford Township north of the road from Clementon to the Burlington County line, *near the gristmill known as Hopkins Mill*, was included within the new township.

❧ No. 11 ❧

SWETT'S GRISTMILL
 PETERSON'S GRISTMILL
 KAY'S GRISTMILL

*Waterford now
 Delaware Township*

On the west side of the Burnt Mill Road, otherwise called Swett's, or Peterson's Mill Road, in the present Delaware Township, about a mile from the Clement's Bridge-Evesham Road and one-half mile from the Haddonfield-Berlin Road was an old mill, which for many years was a landmark in this section. When it was built, or by whom, is not now known. It was on the old

“Wharton Tract” which Joseph Cooper, Jr., left to his grandchildren, Mary, Hannah and Lydia Howell, children of Mary Cooper and Joseph Howell, Jr. Hannah married John Wharton and Mary Howell married Benjamin Swett. He died March 27, 1819, aged 81 years and his wife in March, 1821, in her 84th year. In the meantime the mill site had passed to Joseph Cooper Swett, who was in possession of the same in 1782 although it is not known when he erected the mill, other than that it was in active operation in 1815. (*Gloucester Co. Deeds, Book OO, p. 571; Gloucester Co. Road Book B, p. 184*). Joseph C. Swett died October 25, 1831, aged 54 years.

There stood on this tract an old house said to have been built in 1728 and at the time of Joseph Cooper’s death was occupied by George Ervin as a tenant.

Although this place was in the midst of a forest, yet he was not entirely without neighbors. Among those located in the vicinity were William Bates, about a mile west on Tindall’s Run, George and Thomas Matlack, about two miles south, while the Gills and Kays were not far away.

Adjacent to the above survey was that of Thomas Stokes which extended from the north branch of Cooper’s Creek south-erly to a tributary of the south branch of this creek, that joined what is generally known as Peterson’s Millpond. This tributary was the Holly Swamp Branch and is described in some old deeds as “the Stream the Indian King liveth on.” The Haddonfield-Berlin Road passed through this tract which originally contained some 1300 acres. It is the site of a considerable Indian village.

In the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of May 7, 1777, is described a tract of woodland of about 60 acres on Holly Run, a branch of Timber Creek, about three miles from a landing. There was a great quantity of large timber on the land, which could be immediately converted into boards, there being several sawmills in the neighborhood. Among these mills were probably Swett’s, Kay’s and Tomlinson’s.

The millpond is shown on a survey made by Edward Saunders in 1856 and there called Swett's Pond and shows that the adjacent lands were purchased by Joseph Kay, Jr., December 25, 1826, from Ruth and Samuel C. Wood (*Gloucester Co. Deeds, Book SS, p. 410*). John C. Swett became involved in financial difficulties in 1825 and his real and personal property was seized by Sheriff Wilkins to satisfy a judgment of Jacob Evaul. In the inventory among the items upon which a levy was made were "two farms, one mill, ten cattle, four horses, two waggons & gears," six beds and bedding. (*Gloucester Co. Deeds OO, p. 571*). Soon after this it passed to Jesse Peterson and was then known as "Peterson's Mill." Jesse Peterson was a strong temperance advocate and was a vice president of the Gloucester County Temperance Society in 1843. In 1854, Sheriff William P. Tatem seized the property of Jesse Peterson and on December 30, deeded to Mark Ware some 27 acres of land, including the millpond. This had come to Peterson through the will of William Coffin. (*Camden Co. Deeds, Book X, p. 316*). The water power is mentioned in the *New Jersey Geological Survey Report for 1904*, as quite important and was then owned by Joseph Kay. This water power has since gone down and now only the depression shows.

This was one of the noted gristmills in the county when operated by Peterson, who greatly improved the property and added new grinding and bolting equipment. The pond formed by damming the Holly Swamp Branch was, for a number of years after the property passed out of this name, called Peterson's Mill Pond.

The original Peterson Mill burned down in 1880, and was replaced by a smaller mill soon afterwards. It was after this conflagration that the present name of the road on which the mill stood was given.

No. 16

KENDALL'S CORN MILL
 KAY'S GRISTMILL
 EVANS' MILL

*Newton Township now
 Haddonfield Borough*

Thomas Kendall, who is styled "bricklayer of Rancocas Creek" in some old deeds, built a corn mill on the south side of the south branch of Cooper's Creek, known as the "Free Lodge Mill." This mill was located at a point where the old Salem Road crosses Cooper's Creek on a 121-acre tract of land which Thomas Kendall purchased from William Lovejoy (Lovejay) by deed dated July 26, 1697 (*Gloucester Co. Deed, Liber B, Part 2, p. 645*). This was the land which Lovejoy bought from Richard Matthews of London, citizen and merchant, by his attorney Elias Farr of near Burlington. Lovejoy is described in some deeds as yeoman and in others as a blacksmith. According to the Court records, Lovejoy became involved in an affair with one Ann Penston and was indicted by the Grand Jury in December 1693 for his conduct.

On Sharp's map of 1700, it is called "Lovejoy's Mill." We may, therefore, question whether this mill was built by Lovejoy or Kendall.

When the property was sold by Kendall to William and John Hollinshead of Burlington County, yeoman, and Nathaniel Westland of Burlington City, merchant, on November 6, 1700 it was described in the deed as "121 acres in Gloucester Co., at Uxbridge, on the South branch of Cooper's Creek and on the Salem-Burlington Road, together with a cornmill bought of William Lovejoy, July 26, 1697." (*Gloucester Co. Deeds, No. 3, Liber G., p. 301*).

The mill passed to Henry Treadway in 1702 and from him to Mordecai Howell in 1705. In 1708, it was sold to John Walker and Thomas Carlisle and soon, thereafter, the latter obtained full control. It was at first engaged in the grinding of corn, which was the earliest grain available to the first settlers, and for some time was the chief crop of this locality. This corn was brought to the mill in grain sacks made out of the coarser flax and hemp

grown on the farm and prepared and woven on hand looms found in every home.

Judge Clement in "*Early Settlers of Newton Township*," p. 171, says

"This 'cornmill,' in the days of our ancestors known as the 'Free Lodge mill,' as then constructed would be a curiosity to the mechanics of the present time. The driving of one run of stones, was perhaps, all that they desired, the machinery being so heavy and clumsily made that it would contrast strangely with the perfect application of power and avoidance of friction, and the nice adjustment secured by experience and ingenuity to the same uses at the present day."

These early mills were without any bolting frame and our forefathers ate their bread made of the dark meal with all of the bran left in.

In 1710, John Kay, Josiah Kay, John Kay, Jr., and Simeon Ellis became the owners of the property and three years later Joshua and John Kay, Jr., and Simeon Ellis gave a quit-deed to John Kay for their interests. The elder Kay was a prominent individual in this part of West Jersey, holding among other civic offices that of Speaker of the Assembly in 1710, 11, 12 and 13 and this in itself would mark him as a man of more than ordinary ability. He had been elected a member of the Assembly as early as 1685 and continued in that office in 1703 and 1704. During his activities in the Assembly, he was opposed to Daniel Coxe who was fighting the Quakers. In a bitter contest for re-election to the Assembly his opponent was Coxe. This was the celebrated case in which Kay was defeated and William Harrison, the sheriff of Gloucester County, brought before the bar of the Assembly to answer charges that he had violated the existing electing laws by "adjourning the election poll from the 'great field' near John Kay's house to the house of William Cooper, several miles distant, without consent of the candidates." For this offense the sheriff was severely reprimanded.

John Kay also had a small sawmill of which little seems to be known, although it probably used the same water power as the gristmill. In "An act for the Support of the Government of His Majesty's Province of New Jersey" passed in January 1716/1717,

John Kay's gristmill is taxed ten shillings and his sawmill five shillings. (*Journal of the Votes of The General Assembly, 1710-1719, MSS in State Library*). This appears to be the last mention of the sawmill and we may assume that it soon went down.

By his will, dated February 20, 1740/41, John Kay provided that "son Isaac, to have the house he lives in, the mill and all my land on that side of the creek." In a deed of 1723, for some seven hundred acres of land on both branches of Cooper's Creek, given to his son, Isaac, he is styled as "John Kay of the Grist-Mill at the head of Cooper's Creek, Newton Township, Gloucester County, New Jersey."

From Isaac Kay the mill property passed to his son Joseph and then to Mathias Kay. It was assessed at four shillings in 1733 and at ten shillings four years later and also at the same amount in 1754.

In 1779, the old Kay Mill was moved about 300 yards down the stream. Joel and Thomas Evans purchased the property from Mathias Kay, sometime before August 1818. At that time they built a new tail race and petitioned the court to have the same viewed by two surveyors of highways and freeholders from Waterford and Newton Townships and a survey recorded in the court minutes. The gristmill was described as situated on the main branch of Cooper's Creek which said branch was the dividing line between the two townships (*Gloucester Co. Road Book B, p. 235*). Twenty years later the mill was entirely rebuilt. Joel Evans' interest passed to Thomas who died in 1849, when the property was devised to his son, Josiah B. Evans. On the death of the latter in 1869, it came into possession of his children, who conducted it under the name of Josiah B. Evans & Co. About 1882, it was converted into a roller mill and then had a capacity of seventy-five barrels of flour a day. The mill was torn down in 1910. The old house on the hill overlooking the mill was built in 1748 and opposite this house was a frame building which was formerly the miller's house.

Besides the gristmill, there was a fulling mill in operation nearby at a very early date. The earliest notice of this mill is found in an advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of September 22, 1768, reading as follows:

“WANTED

A FULLER or SHEERMAN. Enquire of HUGH CREIGHTON, at the Indian King, in Haddonfield, 7 miles from Philadelphia”

No doubt Creighton, who was a tavern keeper, was acting for the Kays.

Next we find James M'Dowell, living at Haddonfield announcing that he “intends carrying on the Fulling and Dying Business, in all its different Branches, in as extensive a Manner, and at Cheaper Rates than at any other Mill in New Jersey or Pennsylvania, he having the best Tools and Presses and all Conveniences suitable for the same. Cloth for the Mills will be taken in by *John Coxe*, in Moores-Town, Abraham Allen in Evesham, and Robert Murray, near Woodbury; at which Places Attendance will be given once a Week, the Cloth taken to the Mills and returned again when dressed, according to directions.” (*Pennsylvania Gazette*, September 23, 1772). The following notice appeared in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, September 29, 1772:

“TO BE LETT,

A WELL-ACCUSTOMED FULLING MILL, near Haddonfield, in Gloucester county, West New-Jersey, situated on a never failing stream, and in a country where business is exceeding plenty. If no suitable tenant offers soon, a good Journeyman Fuller will be wanted, at said Mill, by the Subscriber, who intends to carry on the Fulling Business, in all its branches, as usual. Customers in town and country, may depend upon having their work done in the neatest and best manner, and upon the very lowest terms. Enquire of JOHN KEY, living on the premises.”

In 1826, Russel Millard announced in the “Rural Record” of October 25, 1826, that he had rented the Carding & Fulling Mill belonging to Thomas Evans, near Haddonfield. Millard had been the manager since the mill was started by Evans. He also announced that cloth could be left at James Roe’s and Ann S. Test’s, Woodbury, at William Cooper’s at Cooper’s Ferry and Benjamin Springer’s, Camden. Abel Small, at one time, conducted the carding mill.

No. 17

GITHENS' PLASTER MILL
HADDON MILL

*Newton now
Haddon Township*

On the north branch of Newton Creek, a short distance from Haddonfield and one-quarter of a mile from Westmont was an old mill, the origin of which is not known. Jacob Hinchman "miller" of Newton Township, who died in 1742, had a gristmill in this vicinity and it may be that this was the mill which he operated. How long the Hinchman gristmill was continued is not now known, nor is it certain that the Githens' plaster mill was its successor. In any event, we do know that Thomas Githens, a blacksmith of Haddonfield, operated a mill in this neighborhood which was an important institution in the surrounding region. When Nancy Redman of Haddonfield died in 1778, we find Thomas Githens was one of the witnesses to her will. This would indicate that he had a substantial standing in the community at that time. It is quite likely that the old plaster mill was started by him at or shortly after this time, as he would then have been in the prime of life. His name appears on the list of inhabitants of Newton Township, in 1793, who were exempt from military duty, no doubt, because he was over the age limit of 45 years. In 1830, "The Casket," published by S. C. Atkinson of Philadelphia, contained a print of the old mill and some poetry describing its activities. This was published under the name "Haddon Mill," no doubt, given in honor of John Haddon.

A plaster mill was merely the adoption of the gristmill to the grinding of limerock for agricultural purposes. Its raw material was gypsum, which came as ballast to the port of Philadelphia from France. From its point of discharge from the vessels hold, it was loaded on barges and carried to the head of navigation on Newton and Cooper's Creeks and thence by wagon to the mill.

The equipment of the mill itself was the simplest kind, consisting merely of a "run of stones," a crusher, a screen and some minor implements.

Githens operated the mill for many years and it was undoubtedly the first one in this territory to prepare an artificial fertilizer for the improvement of the soil. The road from the village to the mill was a crooked one through the woods, and a favorite walk for the young people. The greens around the pond offered a fine place for dancing and the Quaker youth of Haddonfield knew that they were safe from detection, even though they were in sight of the old miller, who was their friend and protector. Of him it was written

“A meek looking man to the mill-work attended,
His hair with the silver aspect of age;
In his countenance, peace and contentment were blended,
And much his appearance resembled his age.”

Of the building itself Judge Clement wrote:

“Inside the building was a crude chimney with a wide open fireplace and a few baskets and empty nail kegs for seats. The rough hewn joists overhead with dust, and the light struggled in through the two windows thick with particles of plaster. Little effort was made to have things tidy and whoever came took the risk of carrying away on his coat or hat some evidence of his visit. It was the neighborhood rendezvous, and where all the gossip of the country around was discussed.”

Even candidates for political office and the stray Indians hereabout were wont to gravitate into its dusty interior.

Thomas Githens died, February 23, 1826, in the eightieth year of his age, but had not taken any part in the mill for a number of years previous. It is not known that anyone succeeded Githens, although on the same site, Amos Taylor, at a later date, had a small mill. The water power was used by Joseph C. Stoy for his enlarged gristmill which for a number of years was an important one in this neighborhood.

No. 18

STOY'S SAWMILL

*Newton now
Haddon Township*

On a road running from the King's Highway to the Haddonfield-Cooper's Ferry Road was a very old sawmill which was in operation until about 1890. The pond furnishing the power to drive the saw in this mill is mentioned in a road return made in 1833 and described as starting in the line between the lands of Marmaduke B. Hopkins and Samuel Clements and ending in the Haddonfield Road a short distance west of the intersection of this road with those running to Cole's Landing and Hopkins' Mill. It passed over the milldam of James Stoy's sawmill. (*Gloucester Co. Road Book C, p. 210*), which was about a thousand feet west of the Haddonfield Road.

This was on the land purchased by John Eastlack, or as Thomas Sharp has it on his map of 1700, of John Easley and was part of the original survey of Thomas Matthews, later owned by John Haddon.

James Stoy, who died in 1842, was the promoter of this enterprise which dates from about 1820, but it is best known as the Joseph C. Stoy Mill and as such is familiar to many of the present generation.

No. 19

WEBSTER'S GRISTMILL

*Newton now
Haddon Township*

One of the early gristmills which has survived nearly to the present day stood on the east side of Cuthbert Road, near the brickyard of John C. Dobbs. It was on the northerly side of the main branch of Newton Creek, from which the power was gotten.

It was located on part of a survey originally taken up by Henry Stacy and later owned by his son-in-law, Robert Montgomery, the husband of Sarah Stacy. When Henry Stacy died in 1684 he was described as a "factor" of Hamblett of Spittlefields, Parish of Stephney, alias Stebenheath, County of Middlesex,

England. His estate passed to his wife, Mary, and his children, Samuel, Mary, Elizabeth and Sarah, all under age. His executors were his wife and brother-in-law, the celebrated James Nevill, agent of William Penn, Proprietor and Governor of Pennsylvania.

While it is not definitely known when the mill was built, but that it was well established before 1802, it is certain, since in an agreement between Samuel Eastlack and Samuel Webster, dated November 8, 1802, fixing the boundaries between their lands, one of the courses ran along the mill race until it came to a corner of the Webster and Stokes surveys. (*Book of Boundaries A*). The mill is shown on Hill's map of 1810, as "Webster's Newton Mills." Others who have operated the mill have been Samuel Webster's widow and son, trading as Webster & Son, and within the present John J. Schnitzius.

The millpond, which later became Cuthbert Lake, was a favorite "Swimming hole" and was later deeded by E. N. Cutler to the township as a recreation center.

↻ No. 20 ↻

ALBERTSON'S GRISTMILL

*Newton Township now
Audubon Borough*

The earliest mention of Albertson's Mill is in a road return found in the old minute book of Gloucester Township and dated February 2, 1750/51. This survey began at the Irish Road near the plantation of Henry Sparks and thence ran in a direct line to the "northmost" branch of Little Timber Creek and after crossing the creek ran by a corner of John Thorne's fence "to the Southmost Branch of New Town Creek which is a little above the Mill Pond, Thence over the said Branch as the Road now goes to the King's Road a little above Daniel Eastlacks, Thence down the King's Road to the Corner of Daniel Eastlacks Fence and from thence along the Road to Jacob Albertson's Mill." Tracing this old road, the location of the Albertson Mill would be on the north bank of Newton Creek a little to the west of the King's Highway.

In 1752, when Thomas Breach gave a quit-claim deed for a certain piece of land, it was described as beginning below John Glover's corner and bounded by the King's Run and one of its corners was just below Jacob Albertson's milldam which was described as on King's Run. (*Gloucester Co. Deeds, Book C, p. 221*).

Jacob was a son of the second William Albertson and a brother of the William Albertson who married Hannah Harrison, in 1747, and died in 1754. It was on the tract of land purchased by William Albertson, the pioneer of this family in 1682.

Jacob Albertson died in 1761 and in a road return of 1789 (*Gloucester Co. Road Book A, p. 129*) it is mentioned as "the Mill now John Shivers formerly Jacob Albertson's" and the new road then laid out refers to the road of 1750/51 above cited. The dam at the mouth of Newton Creek was erected in 1786.

In 1856, it was known as Hugg's Mill and on a survey map of that year the millpond is shown south of the King's Highway which passed over the milldam.

No. 21

BREACH'S GRISTMILL
HARVEY'S GRISTMILL

*Newton Township now
Audubon Borough*

The first mention so far located of Breach's Mill is in the Court Minutes of 1733, where it was assessed at two shillings. Four years later the assessors list it at eight shillings.

In the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of April 21, 1748, "A Plantation late belonging to Philip Doyle, a weaver of Deptford, Gloucester County, deceased" was described as "situate on the great road leading from Gloucester to Haddonfield, and joining to John Breach's grist mill." John Breach was not only a witness to the Doyle will, but also one of the appraisers of his estate.

When John Breach died in 1748, his executors Simon and Peter Breach, according to the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of August 4, 1748, offered among other properties the following for sale:

“Also a grist-mill, with two boulding mills, and dwelling house belonging to the same, all on said tract, which will be sold altogether, or separate as the purchaser may incline. The whole is in Newton township, Gloucester county, and very convenient for a store, a shop, or a tradesman, there being a blacksmith already settled on a part of said tract. The whole fronts two great roads, one leading from Gloucester to Haddonfield, being the great country road; the other leading from Cooper’s Ferry to Salem, about five miles from said ferry, or six from Philadelphia; the whole having good title, and clear of incumbrances.”

John Breach was the son of Simon Breach who died in 1731, leaving sons John, Simon, Peter and Thomas, also four minor daughters. The father devised 300 acres “below the Great Road that lead to Gloucester and Salem” to John and Simon when the latter is 21. To Peter, and a son, Thomas, born after the father’s death, he left a tract of land (75 acres) between the Great Road and the King’s Run. When John Breach died the executors of his will were his two brothers, Peter and Simon. His personal estate was valued at the time of his death at £115. 6. 3. That he was in close contact with the early settlers of old Newton Township, we may be sure, since the three witnesses to his will were John Thorne, Isaac Albertson and Hez. Williams.

Peter was a witness to the will of Archibald Mickle in 1758 and the administrator of the estate of William Hampton, Jr., in 1766. His will dated August 18, 1774, is a rather voluminous document and contains much of interest to the genealogist and, at least, one provision which has so far escaped local historians. He directs that all his lands on the south side of the Burlington-Salem Road should be sold and his lands on the north side of this road should be leased. He also instructs his executors “to lay out one acre of land, adjoining John Redman and Benjamin Graisbury, on the plantation late my brother Simeon Breache’s, for a burying ground, or, if my sister-in-law, Mary Breach, objects to its being laid out there, then to lay it out anywhere on my lands, which shall be fenced, and shall be free for any reputable person or family to bury in, and a map is to be made of the same and a register of persons buried therein, in which yard I desire to be laid.” Where was this burying ground and what has become of the map and register mentioned in the will?

Simon (Simeon) Breach died two years before his brother, Peter, leaving a wife Mary, whom he married at Haddonfield Meeting in 1750, and is mentioned in Peter Breach's will. He was one of the witnesses to the will of Joseph Cooper, of Pomona Hall, now the Camden County Historical Society headquarters.

Thomas Breach is styled "house carpenter of Philadelphia" and appears to have conveyed by quit-deeds, all his lands in old Gloucester County to his brothers Peter and Simon. (*Gloucester Co. Deeds, Book 6, p. 220; Ibid, Book A G, p. 460*). In these deeds mention is made of Jacob Albertson's Mill. In the will of John Thorne (*N. J. Archives, 1: XXXIII, p. 430*) mention is made of an eighteen-acre tract of land which was purchased of Thomas Breach and devised to his daughter, Sarah Thorne.

Josiah Harvey of Newton Township followed Breach in the ownership of this mill, but nothing is known as to his activities. He died in 1756, and his will was proven November 8 and designates his kinswoman, Rebecca Harvey, as the executrix of his estate. This would indicate that he was not married.

No. 22

HOPKINS' GRISTMILL

*Newton Township now
Haddonfield Borough*

Among other tracts of land surveyed to Francis Collins was one of one hundred and seventeen acres, which he conveyed to Richard Grey of Newton, February 5, 1701-2 and described as lying "on the Southside of and along Cooper's Creek, said County (Gloucester) from the mouth of a small run to John Willis'" (*Gloucester Co. Deeds, No. 2, p. 25*). This tract laid west of the Burlington-Salem Road and later came to John Estaugh Hopkins. When the gristmill known as Hopkins' Mill was built is not known, but according to tradition, it was an enterprise of William Estaugh Hopkins. He was a son of John Estaugh Hopkins and Sarah, daughter of William Mickle and died in 1820 at the age of 48 years. Prowell says the mill was built in 1789, but

this could hardly be, if the tradition as to its builder is correct, for he would then have been only 17 years of age. It is more likely that the gristmill was built about the same time that the William Estaugh Hopkins house was erected, namely in 1795.

A dam was thrown across a small run which coursed through William E. Hopkins' farm and this formed what is now called Hopkins' Pond. The mill stood about thirty or forty yards from the banks of Cooper's Creek. It was operated by William E. Hopkins until his death and then passed to John E. Hopkins, a son, who was conducting it in 1850, and possibly for some time after this and so far as known was the last one to operate it.

№ No. 23 №

GLOVER'S FULLING MILL

*Newton Township now
Haddon Heights Borough*

On the northerly side of the south branch of Newton Creek, also known as King's Run, south of the King's Highway and about a quarter of a mile from the village of Mount Ephraim was an old fulling mill, which has long since gone down. It is said to have been erected by John Glover, who came here from Bristol, Pennsylvania. He was a silk weaver in England and was, therefore, thoroughly familiar with the business when he started this mill. The mill was burned down in 1821 and rebuilt by James Dilworth and torn down about 1917, although it had not been used as a fulling mill for many years before that date. The site of the mill, the tail row and dam embankments are still visible (1936). The former is now included with the grounds of the sewage disposal plant of the Borough of Haddon Heights, while the latter is in the Camden County Park system.

John Glover died in 1807, and the property passed to John T. Glover, who died in 1825. Chalkley Glover, a son of John T., learned the business under his father and in 1822, announced that the mill was undergoing thorough repairs.

The following advertisement gives some information about this mill which furnishes a clue as to its activities:

New-Jersey, July 22, 1776.

WANTED,

A Good Journeyman Fuller, at the Fulling-Mill, belonging to JOHN Glover, in the Township of Newton, and County of Gloucester, on the Road from Haddonfield to Gloucester. Good Wages will be given for one that understands the Business.

The *Pennsylvania Gazette*, July 24, 1776

The tract on which the mill stood was part of a purchase which John Thorne had made of John Reading on June 2, 1704 (*Liber 14 of Wills, p. 192; N. J. Archives, First Series, Vol. XXXIII, p. 430*). The original entry of this tract in the Secretary of State's Office gives the date as June 22, 1704. (*Liber Q, p. 451*). The price paid for these tracts was £100 and it bounded on lands of John Hinchman. Thorne sold a portion of his purchase to John Glover but the deed for this conveyance has not been found. It is, however, mentioned in a quit-claim deed of December 4, 1752, from Thomas Breach to Peter Breach, wherein John Glover's upper corner is given as the beginning point of this survey. (*Gloucester Co. Deeds, Book C, p. 221*). The Glover lands are described in some old deeds as bounded on the east by the Hinchman tract, on the north by the south branch of Newton Creek (King's Run), the Albertson and Harrison lands on the west and Little Timber Creek on the south. The balance of the John Thorne tract was devised to John Glover by will proved September 1, 1769 (*Liber 14 of Wills, p. 192*). It next passed to John Thorne Glover. John Glover was living on the land at the time his father-in-law made his will.

No. 26

ENGLAND'S MILL

*Union Township now
Borough of Barrington*

Thomas Thackara, yeoman of Newton, Gloucester County, conveyed to Daniel England of Philadelphia, 264½ acres of land on the north side of the north branch of Gloucester River (Timber Creek), west of John Hugg's and east of William Albertson's by deed dated December 4, 1700 (*Gloucester Co. Deeds, No. 3, Liber G, p. 336*). In itself this does not interest us, but from the *Journal of Votes of the General Assembly, January 9, 1716*, we learn that Daniel England's sawmill was taxed 25 shillings, indicating that soon after this purchase had been made England erected a sawmill, which was larger than the general run of such mills.

It was located on what was later known as the Zophar C. Howell farm, near Lawnside Station, and east of Shreve avenue in Barrington. Its power was obtained from Beaver Brook and the remains of this old water power are still visible, although no part of the mill can be found.

Daniel England was from Burlington City, where, in 1693 to 1697, he is frequently mentioned in connection with property along the river front (water front lots). In these early deeds he is styled sailor, "sagler", or mariner. He, however, appears to have given up a seafaring life for he is mentioned as a creditor in many of the early wills. It is quite likely that he continued to have a financial interest in some ships trading to the West Indies, although of this no proof has so far been found. His venture here was evidently purely speculative as his name does not appear in the early Gloucester County records.

No. 27

ELDRIDGE'S FULLING MILL
SHIVERS' FULLING MILL

Haddon Township

Just west of the place where the Mount Ephraim Road crossed Little Timber Creek, William Eldridge erected a mill some time before 1795. In April of that year a road called the "Newton Road" began at the bridge over Timber Creek (Chew's Landing) and running northwesterly crossed Beaver Branch and William Eldridge's millpond and thence on "to a post standing in the Toll Bridge Road where the Ditch that vents the pond by Joseph Kaighn's House." (*Gloucester Co. Road Book A, p. 190*). Hezekiah Shivers purchased this mill about 1805 and some years later sold it to John T. Glover by whom it was discontinued in favor of his mill south of the King's Highway.

No. 31

TROTH'S FULLING MILL

Gloucester Township

On the northerly side of Timber Creek between Clement's Bridge and Chew's Landing back of the present village of Glendora was a wool carding mill, established by Jacob Troth about 1815-1820. This mill is noted in the *Columbian Herald* of June 11, 1820 and was then in active operation. The present Glendora is on the site of old Hillmantown, which was laid out about the beginning of the nineteenth century by Jacob Troth on land he received from his father Paul Troth. The old town laid around the church now known as the Chew's Landing M. E. Church. The church was built on lot No. 90 on Market street on the town plot. This is now part of the Black Horse Pike (State Highway No. 42).

How long his carding mill lasted the records do not disclose.

No. 32

HILLMAN'S SAW AND
GRISTMILLS
TOMLINSON'S SAW AND
GRISTMILLS

*Gloucester Township now
Laurel Springs Borough*

The mills at what is now Laurel Springs are among the earliest in the county to be continued down to the present day. These lands were located by Abraham Porter in 1714 to 1716 and laid between the south branch of Cooper's Creek and the north branch of Timber Creek. They contained about three thousand acres and were bounded approximately on the north by Kirkwood, on the east by Laurel Springs, on the south by Chew's Landing and on the west by Runnemedede. On a resurvey of this land made in 1739, no mills are shown although it is known that there was a sawmill in existence, but by whom built is unknown. This mill is mentioned in a road return of June 8, 1739, recorded in the Gloucester Township minute book in the Camden County Historical Society and therein called "Porter's old mill," from which it is certain that it was erected shortly after Porter purchased the land and this is confirmed from the fact that Abraham Porter & Company were assessed 30 shillings for a sawmill and 10 shillings for a gristmill (*Journal of Votes of the General Assembly, 1710-1719*).

While the exact location of Porter's Mill will probably never be definitely known, it was according to tradition a short distance above the floodgates at Chew's Landing. Another tradition places it at or near the present site of the Ephraim Tomlinson's Mill. Since these sites are not very far apart and both use Timber Creek as the source of their water power, it will be sufficient to assume that either location may be correct. The writer is inclined to the latter tradition since on March 8, 1732, the Trustees of Abraham Porter conveyed 619 acres to Ephraim Tomlinson located in the vicinity of the present mill, although no mention is made in this conveyance of a grist or sawmill.

Of Abraham Porter little is known as he was not one of the band of Quakers who settled in this country in the earlier days, and was not connected with the Friends Meetings, although he did devise in his will certain gifts to the Meetings at Haddonfield and Woodbury Creek, along with legacies to churches in Philadelphia, Burlington and Salem and to several ministers. He was a major in the Gloucester County Militia approved by Gov. Burnett. In the published records, he is first met with when he advertised for the arrest of two servants who had run away. (*American Weekly Mercury*, Sept. 24-Oct. 1, 1724). In 1729, being indisposed, he gave notice that since he "has no Family to go forward with his Business," he offered his lands and plantations for sale. (*American Weekly Mercury*, Nov. 27-Dec. 4, 1729). A very good account of his estate is given in this advertisement. We are, however, interested in the statement that there was a good sawmill on the tract and "the Ruins of a Corn Mill, that may be Repeir'd for Fifty Pounds, and will bring in near a Hundred a year." He later advertised for sale "a Saw-Mill and a great Quantity of Timber and Meadow Land, bounding on both sides of *Gloucester River*, commonly call'd *Timber-Creek*, within 12 miles of *Philadelphia*, navigable for a large Boat up to the said Mill." (*Pennsylvania Gazette*, Aug. 20-27, 1729). He died in 1729/30 and his will names Mahlon Stacy, Jonathan Wright and Thomas Scattergood as executors. Not being able to sell all the property at private sale the executors announced on May 1, 1734, that it would be offered at public auction, but no mention is then made of a sawmill. The property was eventually divided into many smaller parcels and frequent mention is made of re-sales of lands "formerly belonging to Abraham Porter."

When Mean (Mein or Maham) Southwick became the owner he found there, according to Judge Clement, a sawmill which was owned by Thomas Atkinson and Thomas Webster. This was an important industry in the neighborhood.

In 1745, John Hillman purchased about five hundred acres of the Porter lands from Thomas Atkinson, Sr., which lay in the vicinity of the White Horse Tavern. The old sawmill water power

was included in this purchase and under Hillman a gristmill was built and added to the activities of this section. Both the sawmill and gristmill are mentioned in John Hillman's will, dated June 29, 1764. The gristmill was devised to his son, Josiah, while the sawmill property was given to the widow and sons, Joab and Josiah in equal shares. This would indicate that, at that time, the sawmill was considered by the testator as the more important of the two.

However, it was not long before the gristmill, which remained in the Hillman family until the early part of the 19th century, became the more important. It is mentioned as "Hillman's Grist Mill" in several road returns in 1805 (*Gloucester Co. Road Book B, pp. 22 and 72*). Later the property passed to Benjamin Tomlinson and in 1824, application was made to the Legislature for permission to open navigation on the north branch of Timber Creek from his mill to Chew's Landing, to erect a lock at or near the forks and to remove the floodgates above Chew's Landing. In a road return of 1834, it is called Benjamin Tomlinson's Gristmill (formerly Hillman's) (*Gloucester Co. Road Book C, p. 289*). In 1839, the mill was offered for rent, but with what success we do not know.

Benjamin Tomlinson and his wife, Frances Haines, had but one child, Ephraim, to whom the mill property came in 1840 and since that time it has been known as "Ephraim Tomlinson's Mills." This was the largest gristmill in Gloucester Township and, in 1841, was assessed for "three runs of stones" at five dollars per run or fifteen dollars for the entire mill. Ephraim Tomlinson was also taxed in that year for a sawmill with one saw at five dollars.

The gristmill is located on the south side of the north branch of Timber Creek on the Laurel Mills Road just outside of the village of Laurel Springs. It continues to function under the ownership of John C. Stafford and is still known as Laurel Springs Mill. The old overshot water wheel has, however, given way to a water turbine. The sawmill was situated on the northerly side of the creek, but was abandoned many years ago, although the mill foundations are still visible.

No. 33

BROWN'S SAWMILL

Gloucester Township

On the road leading from Chew's Landing to Berlin was an old sawmill conducted by Jacob Brown who, in 1820, advertised that sawing would be done cheap at his mill. It was, however, during the tenure of William Brown that the establishment reached its greatest activity. According to the tax return for Gloucester Township, in 1841, this mill had one saw and was assessed at the specific rate of five dollars. He built a few houses around the mill and established an extensive lumber business. The place was called Browntown or Brownville. After Brown's death in 1846, the mill was operated by John Marshall who soon changed it into a turning mill. It was abandoned shortly after 1850 and today not a vestige of the old place is to be seen.

No. 34

ISAAC TOMLINSON'S
GRISTMILL

*Gloucester Township now
Pine Hill Borough*

Where the byroad from the Blackwood-Clementon Road to Erial crosses McGee's branch of Timber Creek is an old gristmill, driven by an "overshot" water wheel, the only one still extant in the county. The mill often called "Tomlinson's Little Mill" is still standing and was a short time ago in working order, although it had not ground any grain for years. Recently (1936) some vandals broke into the building and destroyed the millstones for the sole purpose of getting the iron in them for junk.

The building is two and a half stories in height, the lower part of stone and the upper part of frame put together with wooden pegs. In the lower floor is the gearing connecting with the shaft of the water wheel which is on the outside, all of the pulleys are of wood and show evidences of having been put together with handmade nails. It had two "run of stones" and the accompanying bolting machines were of crude construction.

The records, so far examined, do not disclose when the mill was built, but it was probably started by Isaac Tomlinson, the elder, who died in 1817. It was next operated by James Tomlinson

and, in 1841, according to the returns then, as now, contained two "runs of stones." At that time the mill of Ephraim Tomlinson at Laurel Springs contained three "run of stones." The mill was later taken by Isaac, son of James Tomlinson, and operated by him for many years. In 1877, C. A. Tomlinson was the miller. At one time the establishment was known as "Mount Pleasant Mills." It is now owned by W. R. Kennedy.

↻ No. 35 ↻

GIBBS' MILLS

Gloucester Township now

NORCROSS' SAWMILL

Clementon Borough

MARSHALL'S SAWMILL

There was a gristmill a short distance from the present railroad station at Clementon which continued down to recent times. This was not, however, the earliest mill at this location, for about the middle of the eighteenth century Andrew Newman had built a sawmill of which frequent mention is made in early records. This mill stood on the same water power as the gristmill of a few years later, but is the one most frequently mentioned in various transfers. Near the site of these mills was Burden's graveyard (named after Richard Burden who became a landowner in this region in 1789). The power for these mills came from the south branch of Timber Creek.

The next owner of the mill property was William Lawrence, and then Christopher Kneiser and Samuel Clement. In 1806, "Clement's Sawmill Dam" and "Clements Gristmill" are mentioned in connection with a road from White Horse Tavern to these mills. (*Gloucester Co. Road Book B.*, p. 56). The gristmill was about 1400 feet southwesterly from the sawmill.

Clement had several partners in the glassworks which he started on this water power in 1814 and it is quite probable that in this venture was also included the sawmill and gristmill. This is especially likely in view of an advertisement which appeared in the *Columbian Herald* of February 20, 1822, offering a sawmill and 1,200 acres of land situate in Gloucester Township near Clementon Glass Works for sale "to close a concern." This was signed by John Woodward, Joseph Monroe, James W. Caldwell and Michael C. Fisher.

In 1841, Jonathan Riley was operating the gristmill with its two "runs of stones" for which he paid a tax of ten dollars and also a one-saw sawmill. He later took into partnership Thomas Risdon and they are listed in Kirkbride's Directory for 1850 as the proprietors of the gristmill. It was owned by Snyder & Gibbs (L. W. Snyder and Theodore B. Gibbs) and then by Theodore B. Gibbs. It is best known as "Gibbs' Mill." Of the sawmill nothing is known after 1841, and it is possible that it was discontinued shortly before this date.

The next mill on the south branch of Timber Creek below Clementon was owned by Isaiah Norcross in 1841, and a few years later Norcross & Seeds were the proprietors. This was quite a profitable venture and active for a number of years.

At the head of the third pond below Clementon, John Marshall had a gristmill and sawmill. Just when they were built history does not reveal, but that they were in existence in 1841, we are sure, since they were then entered on the assessor's list.

No. 36

THORNE'S SAWMILL

Gloucester Township

On a tributary of the north branch of Timber Creek, called Thorne's Mill Branch, William Thorne, who came here from Long Island, erected a sawmill probably shortly after 1706. He purchased three tracts of land from Mordecai Howell (*Liber A*, p. 84), part of which land was near the head of the south branch of Cooper's Creek and the north branch of Timber Creek. John Thorne, a grandson of William Thorne, in his will of July 29, 1751, is described as sawyer and among his assets is listed a sawmill. Thorn's mill "at Clementon" was offered for sale by John B. Harrison and John C. Smallwood in 1835. The mill has long since gone down, but it is said the site could still be seen a few years ago.

William Thorne, according to Dr. J. R. Stevenson, was the father of Captain Joseph Thorne of the Second Battalion of the Gloucester County Militia. The son was born in 1735 and married Isabella Cheesman. His son-in-law was Thomas Stevenson of Stevenson's Mills.

No. 37

FLOOD GATES SAWMILL

Gloucester Township

Some authorities have contended that Abraham Porter had a sawmill at the Flood Gates near Chew's Landing early in the eighteenth century, but no definite information on this point has been produced. It is known that there was a sawmill at this point about 1800, although it is not known who built it. Josiah Albertson and Nathan Lippincott each operated the mill at some time and both are mentioned in deed pertaining to the property. Nathan Lippincott lived in the old Hampton or Warwick house on the hill above the Flood Gates. In a road return of September 10, 1803, mention is made of a dam near the bridge opposite Nathan Lippincott's house. Thus, the location of the Lippincott dam is fully established and the time when the sawmill was in existence. Rebecca Perce Chew, the grandmother of the Misses Chew of Chew's Landing, says there was no mill there in 1829-30. In 1790, Kinsey was operating a turning mill, probably in connection with the sawmill and all of the turnings used in the first Episcopal Church at Chew's Landing were said to have been made by him.

No. 38

WARD'S FULLING AND
GRISTMILLS

Gloucester Township

BLACKWOOD'S FULLING
AND GRISTMILLS
KAY'S MILLS

In 1701, George Ward bought 250 acres of land from Thomas Bull and soon improved the water power and built a fulling mill and gristmill at what is now Good Intent. This was the second gristmill to be built in what is now Camden County. On July 11, 1715, George Ward conveyed to John Royton two acres of land together with one-half of the gristmill and fulling mill and one-half of the stream (south branch of Timber Creek) and one-half of the bank race belonging to the said mill, together with a moiety in the houses, outbuildings and utensils. When letters of

administration were granted on the estate of John Royton in October 1717, he was styled "fuller and dyer of Bristol, Pennsylvania." From this it is evident that if Royton came to Blackwoodtown* at all it was for only a short stay (*Liber II of Wills, p. 83; N. J. Archives, 1: vol. XXIII, p. 396*).

There is no doubt that the Ward Mill was one of the most important in the county. In 1716, it was assessed by the Legislature twenty shillings (*Journal of the Votes of the Assembly, January 9, 1716*). In 1773, when it was taxed by the Gloucester County courts the rate was fixed at five shillings and was the highest figure at which any of the mills were assessed.

In 1739, George Ward advertised

"TO BE LETT,

A Very Good Fulling Mill with all the Utensills situated in Gloucester County, in Deptford Township, 8 Miles from Gloucester. Any Person inclining to take the said Mill, may apply to George Ward at the said Mill, and agree on Reasonable Terms."

(The American Weekly Mercury, May 10-17, 1739).

A road was laid out in 1739 from George Ward's mill into the old King's Road, and passing Porter's old mill. (*Gloucester Township Minute Book in Camden Co. Hist. Soc.*)

Later, Charles Read became the owner through purchase at Sheriff's sale and then the property passed to John Blackwood, who is said to have come here from Scotland. In an advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of June 17, 1741, he is styled "Fuller at the head of Timber Creek." Blackwood conducted the fulling mill for a number of years, but the history of the gristmill during this period is unknown, although from subsequent information it is likely that this mill continued to do a small business. In 1746, Blackwood offered for sale or rent "A PLANTATION ON THE HEAD OF TIMBER-CREEK, about 8 miles from Gloucester: Containing 300 Acres of Land with a good

*Blackwoodtown was in a deed of 12 mo. 20, 1803, called "a small town known as Blackwoodtown, alias Little Town."

Dwelling House; etc. etc., . . . And likewise a good Fulling-Mill with all the necessary Utensils, in extraordinary good Order, such as a Work-house or Shop, an Iron-bound Press, with a new Screw and Box, and a new Plate, with three pair of Sheers, two of them extraordinary good, a new Copper or Furnace almost new set, that will hold 5 and 6 Barrels, and a Set of good Tenter Bars. And likewise a good Grist Mill, with one pair of Stones, and one Bolting Mill partly new" (*Pennsylvania Journal*, July 9, 1746).

He evidently did not find any customer for these mills, since, under date of January 31, 1748, John Blackwood advertised in the *Pennsylvania Journal* of the date that "there was left at the House of Henry Sparks in Gloucester a Piece of wollen Cloth, to be sent to John Blackwood's upon Timber creek, to be dy'd and dress'd, and no Owner has since appeared. This is to desire the Owner to fetch it away and pay the Charges."

John Blackwood died intestate in 1761 and the next we know of these mills is found in an advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Chronicle* of April 17-24, 1769 in which John Heaton of Philadelphia offered for sale "A PLANTATION containing about 300 acres, 60 whereof are cleared, 20 acres of good meadow and more may be made, the remainder is well timbered; there is a good dwelling house and orchard, a barn, and other out-houses thereon; also a grist mill with one pair of stones, and a fulling mill, with press, shop, dye house, tenter bars, and all other tools and utensils, necessary for carrying on the fulling business; situate on the main branch of Great Timber Creek, in the county of Gloucester, in the western division of the province of New Jersey, in a good part of the country for trade within a mile of navigable water on the said creek, and eight mile from the town of Gloucester. It is an old accustomed place for business, both in the grinding and fulling way, and is well situated for a store, being in a thick inhabited part of the country and within a small distance of several saw-mills, on the same creek."

Randall Marshall was then living on the plantation. He advertised in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of June 14, 1770,

"TO BE LETT,

And may be entered on immediately, either on Shares, or at an annual Rent, for a Year, or longer TERM, A FULLING-MILL, with the Utensils proper for carrying on the Business, situate in the County of Gloucester, and Province of New-Jersey, about 8 Miles from the Town of Gloucester, and at the Head of Timber Creek. The Business of Fulling and Dying have been carried on at said Mill, for 40 Years past, and is therefore well accustomed, being in a thick settled Part of the Country. Enquire of RANDALL MARSHALL, on the Premises."

When he died in 1780, Randall Marshall was possessed of a sawmill and a gristmill, the former being devised to his son, Thomas and the latter to son, Joseph, while a mill at Whitehall was given to son, John. An interesting sidelight on Marshall is in an act of the Legislature of 1781 to secure to Thomas Marshall title to certain tracts of land purchased of the father of John Hinchman, a fugitive with the enemy.

The property about 1800 was called "Kay's Mill," after John Kay, and a few years later it was converted into a carding mill. This John Kay was the son of John Kay, called "sawmill man" in his will dated February 26, 1783, and was given "a plantation gristmill and fulling mill." These mills came to John, Sr., through purchase from Thomas Wharton, attorney for Hannah Lacock and were situated in Gloucester Township. When John Kay, Jr., died intestate there were four sisters and two brothers, namely Isaac and Matthias Kay, to share his estate. By 1805, these mills had come to Isaac Kay and are frequently mentioned in road returns in Gloucester Township.

In May 1824, Joseph Haines announced that his machines were in complete order and in addition to the new card put in last season others had been installed and were all ready to do wool carding under the direction of William Martindale. (*Herald and Gloucester Farmer*, May 28, 1824). The water power was taken by Garrett Newkirk, Cooper & Co., composed of Garrett Newkirk, John L. Cooper, Jonas Livermore and Samuel Newkirk. The Good Intent Woolen Mill was built on the same water power, but was just over what was later the Camden County

line in Gloucester County. These mills, the grist and sawmill and the cloth mill, were operated for many years by Livermore, Cooper & Co., and Livermore & Wilcox. The gristmill was enlarged in 1835. The woolen mill was destroyed by fire, but was immediately rebuilt, and a few years later the sawmill was reconstructed and changed to a circular sawmill. Henry Ffirth advertised in 1837, that he would rent a good water power in the vicinity of Blackwoodtown and Good Intent which was susceptible of large improvement. This was probably the water power which had been used by the woolen mill. Both the woolen mill and sawmill have now been abandoned and only the foundations are visible.

No. 39

SPRING MILLS OR TETAMEKON MILLS

Gloucester Township

About a mile and a half below Blackwood on the south branch of Timber Creek, at what is now Grenloch, was an old sawmill the origin of which is unknown. On March 25, 1811, Daniel Bates conveyed the mill property to Jacob Glover and Paul Troth (*Gloucester Deed, Book P. 154*) which would indicate that the sawmill was in operation at this time. Daniel Bates married Tamzen Williams in 1784 and died in 1815, so that if he established his mill it occurred at some time between the former date and 1811. After a few years Glover acquired Troth's interest and on March 5, 1836, sold the property to William H. Carr and Martin P. Lunt for \$3000. The new owners were commission men of Philadelphia and converted it into a works for making iron implements and machinery. From this time the water power of the old sawmill has been used for this purpose. A sign on the first building they erected bore the name "Tetamekon Foundry." The dam for the sawmill was about one hundred feet north of the present dam and the sawyer's house, a log building was at one end of the old dam.

In January 1838, Sheriff J. P. Browning advertised he would sell the property belonging to William Carr, survivor of Carr &

Lunt, consisting of the factory known as the Spring Mills Factory, together with a small dwelling and a farm of about twenty-seven acres. (*Camden Mail*, January 3, 1838). Joseph Hart of Hartville, Pennsylvania, an uncle of William H. Carr now became the owner and his sheriff's deed is dated February 3, 1838. Carr, however, continued to operate the works, making sadirons, shovels and hay forks. It burned down in 1852, but was immediately rebuilt. On October 1, 1860, Joseph Hart conveyed the property to Stephen Bateman for a consideration of \$5000. Bateman had been the practical man at the works and his pay was one-quarter of the profits of the business. The latter began the manufacture of agricultural implements and wagons. The next owners were E. S. and F. Bateman who took hold on October 1, 1863, and continued under this name until 1893, when the Bateman Manufacturing Company was formed. Their products under the name of "Iron Age" cultivators and other farming machinery went to all parts of the world.

No. 40

THE CHEESMAN GRIST AND SAWMILLS

Gloucester Township

Richard Cheesman in his will dated March 19, 1743, mentions sons, Thomas, Benjamin, Richard, William and Peter. To the latter he gave "land where the sawmill and wharf now stand and all my other lands in Gloucester County." This mill was on the south branch of Timber Creek below Blackwood, but whether it was the same one mentioned in the will of his son, Peter, is not known. In 1733, the sawmill was assessed for taxes at three shillings.

When Peter Cheesman made his will April 19, 1788, he devised his plantation of 2,000 acres of land and one-half of his sawmill to his son, Richard, and the other half of the mill to another son, Thomas. When Thomas Cheesman died his will, dated January 29, 1792, directed that his one-half of the sawmill "that my Father left me in the Township and County of Gloucester" should go to a son, Peter T. Cheesman, later styled "Major

Peter Cheesman." Richard Cheesman, son of Peter, in his will gave "his plantation and sawmill" to a son, Peter. There is, however, some confusion as to how he became seized of the entire mill as, so far, no conveyance has been found which would designate that Richard either bought the other half of this mill or sold his moiety.

On a map of the division of the lands of Joseph H. Cheesman (*Camden Co. Book of Divisions of Land, No. 2, p. 348*) made in 1833, these mills are definitely located and show that Peter Cheesman's gristmill was below Turnerville at what was known as the lower dam, that is the one nearest the above village. The sawmill of Joseph H. Cheesman was on the westerly side of Timber Creek in Deptford Township, Gloucester County. This mill was set off to Rebecca Botterer, wife of James J. Botterer and was later called "Prosser's Mill." Another of the Cheesman's mills was about below the Botterer mill and was operated by Peter Cheesman.

These three mills were in constant operation until well after the middle of the nineteenth century. The gristmill had "one rum of stones" while the sawmill had one saw and the other sawmill was converted into a gristmill under the ownership of Prosser.

№ No. 41 №

WARE'S SAWMILL

Gloucester Township

The only notice seen of Andrew Ware's Mill so far located is in the court minutes of 1733, where this mill was assessed at two shillings.

Andrew Ware is styled shingle maker in his will dated November 6, 1758. Gabriel Davis was administrator of this estate. From this information it is safe to assume that Ware carried on his sawmill not primarily for the board lumber produced but for the raw material for making shingles. Other than that it was in Gloucester Township, probably somewhere on Timber Creek, it is not known where it was located nor when it was abandoned.

No. 46

MATLACK'S SAWMILL
HILLARD'S SAWMILL

*Waterford now
Voorhees Township*

On the south branch of Cooper's Creek, midway between the present Kirkwood and Gibbsboro, was an old mill which went back to the early 1700's. Judge Clement says that the plantation on which this mill stood was surveyed to Richard Heritage in 1701 and was later bought by William Matlack. The latter gave 500 acres to his son, George, in 1714, and the mill was built soon after this date.

While Matlack built the mill, it is best known as "Hillard's", after Joseph Hillard, who for a number of years before his death, in 1753, was operating the mill. It was called Hillard's Mill as late as 1849 and, at that time, the post office address was given as Gibbsboro.

No. 47

BORTON'S MILL
MILFORD GRISTMILL

*Waterford now
Voorhees Township*

At the intersection of the Milford Road, and the Berlin-Marlton Road stood an old mill, which was in existence before 1753. It is uncertain as to whether this was then a gristmill or sawmill. When John Borton, Jr., of Waterford Township died in 1759, he is called "sawyer." On the other hand, in 1753, a road was laid out from John Borton's Gristmill to Kay's Mill Bridge (Haddonfield) and along the line by the mill to the King's Road (*Gloucester Co. Road Book A, p. 85*). When the road from Long-a-coming (Berlin) to Borton's barn was surveyed, in 1789, it was stated that its termination was one chain from Isaac Borton's Gristmill. (*Gloucester Co. Road Book A, p. 121*).

John Borton was of the family after which Borton's Landing on Rancocas Creek was named. His brother, Abraham Borton, living at the landing, was the administrator of his estate. A son, John Borton, became the next owner. It was later operated by

Jacob T. Sharp and then by J. Powell. Some of the older inhabitants state that there was carved on one of the mill doors the figures 1797, which is supposed was the date when the old mill, remembered by those of the present generation, was rebuilt.

No. 48

STOKES' SAWMILL

*Waterford now
Voorhees Township*

At the "Head of the Rancocas Creek," a short distance west of the village of Milford (Kresson) and south of the road from that place to Gibbsboro, was an early sawmill, known as Stokes' Mill, or "Milford Saw Mill." William Lippincott & Bro. are shown as the owners of the land in the vicinity of the mill, but it is not known whether it included the sawmill and no reference has been found of a Lippincott Mill in this neighborhood. In 1860, J. S. Peters was the owner of this property, but it is not known whether he actually operated the mill, or leased it to others. It was operated, in 1877, by Zebedee R. Wills of Burlington County, who was, no doubt, influenced to locate at this place through his marriage into the Powell family, then located at the nearby gristmill.

No. 49

HOPKINS' GRISTMILL
WHITE HORSE GRISTMILL
KIRKBRIDE'S GRISTMILL

*Waterford now
Voorhees Township*

On the road to Gibbsboro just south of its intersection with the White Horse-Fellowship Road was an old sawmill which took its power from a pond formed by damming the headwaters of the south branch of Cooper's Creek. By whom it was built is not now known, but about 1835, Griffith M. Hopkins converted the old sawmill into a gristmill and it was for many years known as "Hopkins' Grist Mill."

The next notice of this mill is in an advertisement which appeared in the *West Jersey Mail* of December 16, 1846, offering for sale "The WHITE HORSE GRIST MILL, now in complete running order, with Smutt Machine &c., and the Farm adjoining,

containing 160 Acres of Land adapted to grain or grass, and susceptible of great improvements." It was described as near the White Horse dam in Gloucester Township and was then in the occupancy of John R. Matlack.

About this time (1850) the property was purchased by Joel P. Kirkbride, who immediately began extensive improvements and made it one of the largest gristmills in the county.

Sixty acres of land on the pond on which this mill was located was purchased in 1876 by the Camden & Atlantic Railroad Co., and converted into a picnic ground, known as Lakeside Park. This was a very popular resort for many years, but has since given way to other places of easier access.

No. 50

GENERAL JACKSON MILL
RICHARDS' SAWMILL

*Waterford now
Voorhees Township*

The origin of the sawmill later called Jackson or Richards' Mill is not known. In an advertisement of January 13, 1823, it was called the General Jackson Mill. At that time Joseph Rogers and Samuel C. Champion offered a 350 acre tract of land for sale, including a corn mill. This was described as situated on the road leading from Long-a-coming (Berlin) to Marple's Mill, about two miles from the former place, nine miles from Chew's Landing and ten miles from Haddonfield. (*The Herald & Gloucester Farmer*, January 22, 1823).

About this time Thomas Richards acquired land in this vicinity for a glassworks which included the old sawmill. These holdings were later extended until they included all the land as far as the Marple Mill tract. Richards' Mill is mentioned in a return of 1828 (*Gloucester Co. Road Book C*, p. 130) for a little road southward of Thomas Richards' Mill to the Waterford glass factory. It then crossed over Bates' Mill branch near his new sawmill to Anthony Warrick's old sawmill, passing on the way over the Blue Anchor or Camel's Branch, and ending in the road from Blue Anchor to Smith's Tavern in Galloway Township.

The mill was operated by the Richards (Thomas and later Samuel) for many years.

↻ No. 51 ↻

MARPLE'S SAWMILL

*Waterford now
Voorhees Township*

When a road was laid out from the Borton Mill Road in 1812, it was described (*Gloucester Co. Road Book B, p. 102*) as "ending in the line or road six chains from the North west corner of the saw mill known by the name of Marple's big mill now the property of Martin Gibbs and Company." This mill was, in 1823, known as Marple's Mill when an 850-acre tract of land in Waterford Township was offered for sale and described as "on the road leading from Long-a-coming to Marple's mill, about two miles from the former place, nine miles from Chew's Landing & ten miles from Haddonfield" (*The Herald and Gloucester Farmer*, Jan. 29, 1823).

About the time Thomas Richards acquired the land around Jackson for his glassworks, he also bought the old Marple Mill. Richards' Mill is mentioned in a road return in 1828 (*Gloucester Co. Road Book C, p. 130*) for a little road southward of Thomas Richards' Mill to the Waterford Glassworks, thence over Bates Mill Branch near his new sawmill, thence crossing Blue Anchor or Camel's Branch to Anthony Warrick's old sawmill and thence to the Blue Anchor-Smith Tavern Road in Galloway Township.

This mill was operated as the Richards' Mill during the regime of the Jackson Glassworks.

↻ No. 52 ↻

IRON MILL

*Waterford now
Voorhees Township*

On the Bates' Mill Branch, just southeast of where the road from Winslow to Atsion crossed that stream, was an old sawmill, mysteriously called the Iron Mill. It was on land owned by William and Jesse Richards, the iron manufacturer at Atsion and Batsto, and it is quite likely that because of this connection, it was given the name by which it was shown on all the earlier maps. When it was built, history does not record, but it can

probably be dated from the latter part of the eighteenth, or early part of the nineteenth century, when the iron furnaces and forges nearby were in full blast.

This was, no doubt, the mill mentioned in a road return of July 18, 1838, (*Gloucester Co. Road Book D*, p. 29) in which Richards' new sawmill, near the foot of Blue Anchor Branch, is given as one of the direction marks. In 1860, it was operated as Landros & Burns' Sawmill.

№ No. 53 №

BURNT MILL

*Waterford now
Voorhees Township*

The Burnt Mill was located on a tributary of the Matchestacutuxen Branch of Great Egg Harbor River, about one and a half miles east of Waterford. Our searches have not disclosed when this mill was started. In 1823, a cedar swamp was offered for sale and described as located on the road from Long-a-coming to Marple's Mill and adjoining the Burnt Mill Pond. (*The Herald and Gloucester Farmer*, January 29, 1823). From this it is clear that this mill was well known at that time.

In 1838, a road was laid out from Winslow to the one running from Hammonton to Ephraim Cline's Tavern (the Indian King Tavern), passing over the bridge at Bobby's causeway and "to the Canal of Richards' new Saw Mill near the foot of Blue Anchor Branch then commencing at a Stake at the Southerly end of the Dam at said Richards new mill." (*Gloucester Co. Road Book D*, p. 28). This gives us a definite clue as to the origin of the name Burnt Mill, the old mill had burned down and a new one was erected on its site. The canal mentioned in the above record is shown on Clement's Map of Camden Co., made in 1846, as connecting Cooper's Branch and Wild Cat Branch (the tributary on which the mill was located). The mill was probably erected by William Richards of Atsion and Batsto Furnaces. It was owned by J. Porter and Son in 1860, but how long it operated is not known although it was in existence in the 1860's.

No. 56

INSKEEP'S SAWMILL

*Gloucester now
Winslow Township*

The Inskeep Sawmill was located on a 160-acre tract of pine land originally surveyed to Daniel Morgan on May 4, 1747. This tract laid along the main branch of the Great Egg Harbor River below Blue Anchor and a short distance from where Inskeep branch entered that stream. This made two branches to the mill-pond, the principal and much the larger portion of the pond being upon the river while the smaller portion was on Inskeep's Branch.

It is not known when this mill was built and the earliest record we have of it is in a deed of October 17, 1763, when Robert Braddock conveyed to Isaac Stratton of Evesham, Burlington County, a tract of cedar swamp described as "Near a Sawmill belonging to James Inskeep" on a branch called "Meches Qualuxing." This tract was below the survey made in 1726 by Daniel Hillman and Joseph Lowe and south of the Blue Anchor tract.

There was an interesting trial as to the ownership of some cedar swamps about two and a half miles from the Blue Anchor Tavern before the Supreme Court of New Jersey at the January Term, 1865. In this trial, Thomas P. Carpenter and Peter L. Voorhees appeared for Haines & Inskeep and Abraham Browning and James B. Dayton for Ralph V. M. Cooper. From a memorandum of the evidence by George W. Sykes, the eminent surveyor, we learn that some nine or ten comparatively insignificant tracts of cedar swamp could play an important part in later land titles. Several of these surveys later became the property of John Inskeep, who was the builder of the first sawmill. This trial, which lasted a full week, brought out two outstanding facts, first that these early surveys were carelessly made and second, that these cedar swamps had a potential value.

James Inskeep was the son of John, who died in 1757, and the father of John Inskeep mentioned in a resurvey of the tract in

1762 (*Clement's, "Early Settlers of Newton Township," p. 265*). The Inskeep family "were owners of extensive tracts of timber land, and the preparation of timber for various requirements seems to have become an hereditary trait." (*French's "Genealogy," vol. II, p. 61*). The property remained in the Inskeep name until 1844, when it was sold to the Winslow Glass Works. There is an unrecorded deed for this property in the Camden County Historical Society.

That the mill was well established at the time stated above is evidenced from a resurvey of a 48-acre tract to Joseph Burr, Jr., in 1766, in which it is described "as being at the head of John Inskeep's mill pond." The original survey made in 1760 said nothing about a millpond. In 1773, Robert Braddock, a grandson of Nathaniel Cripps, conveyed a tract of cedar swamp to Isaac Stratton which was described as near James Inskeep's Sawmill. This deed is not recorded (*Camden Co. Hist. Soc.*).

At the point where the mill was erected, the old Indian trail from the Delaware River to the seacoast crossed the Great Egg Harbor River and was a general meeting place for travelers on this trail or road. When Inskeep made his survey, he put a post at the beginning corner at the easterly side of the river "and where a ford crosseth the same."

Of the mill, the memory of man does not record any details. It was, no doubt, a crude affair, consisting of a rough shed in which an up-and-down saw, mounted in a crude frame and provided with a rough timber carriage on which the logs were mounted and moved forward and back against the saw by means of a cogged axle, which fitted into other cogs underneath. Around the mill were a few shacks for the sawyer and workmen, but no other development.

Adjoining the mill was a deer park of about fifty acres surrounded by a high board fence. This was in reality a pen where deer were kept under confinement until such time as the owner and his friends staged a hunt. Then one or more of the animals would be released and the quest begun. These parks were not uncommon, but the one at Inskeep's Mill appears to have been the most extensive and best known.

No. 57

BATES' SAWMILL

*Gloucester now
Winslow Township*

What has for many years been known as Bates' Sawmill was probably built by Thomas Cole and is said to date from the year 1762. The mill in Washington Township most frequently called Cole's Mill was purchased by Thomas Cole about 1775 at which time he moved from Gloucester Township. Incidentally it may be observed that the mill commonly called Cole's was erected about 1762 by William Harrison (*Gloucester Co. Deeds, Liber K, p. 391*).

The tract of land on which Bates' Mill stands was purchased by Josiah Albertson, Jr., from Joseph Walker, November 6, 1810, and which Albertson conveyed to Benjamin Bates on December 15, 1812 (*Surveyor General's Office, Book C. C. folio 242*). Bates had opened a tavern at the location of this mill as early as 1788.

In 1814, the Council of Proprietors of West Jersey granted to Benjamin B. Cooper, Anthony Warrick, Josiah Albertson and the heirs of Joseph Walker, Sr., a tract of land in Gloucester Township which they held in common. In 1817, a resurvey of this tract was made, but before the survey was made, Albertson had purchased Cooper's and Warrick's interests, including the sawmill, pond and land directly connected therewith. The property was then held by Albertson, Bates and the Walker heirs, that is a one-quarter interest by Benjamin Bates, one-half by Albertson and one-quarter share by the Walker heirs. In the award Albertson received his share in "the sawmill, pond and dam, waterworks with the logs and board yard" together with the land on the southerly side of the pond. Bates besides his share was given the land on the northerly side of the pond. (*Gloucester Co. Deeds, Book Z, p. 376*). This award covers a number of pages of the record and furnishes many other facts.

This mill was one mile south of Waterford at a point where the road from Blue Anchor crossed the Bates' Mill branch of Little Egg Harbor River.

In 1841, Josiah Albertson had according to the tax assessments, of that year, a three-quarter interest in the mill and Benoni Bates the other one-quarter share.

Later it came into the possession of William S. Braddock and a portion of the millpond was converted into a cranberry bog.

No. 58

WILTSEY'S SAWMILL
ALBERTSON'S SAWMILL

*Gloucester now
Winslow Township*

Judge Clement on a map of Camden County, made in 1849, shows a mill on the Great Swamp Branch of Little Egg Harbor River, below Winslow which he calls "Wiltsey's." This was built by Charles Wiltsey (Wiltse) Sr., who died in 1809 and was probably erected about 1800. The land on which this sawmill stood descended to his son, Charles Wiltsey, and the mill was later sold to David Albertson. After Wiltsey had sold his old mill to Albertson, he erected another one at the other end of the mill-pond. That this was a small mill is evidenced from the fact that he was, in 1841, only assessed one-half of the regular sawmill rate, or two dollars and a half tax, while David Albertson's mill was taxed five dollars and on some surveys is called the "Little Mill." It was evidently abandoned before 1850, as it is not listed in Kirkbride's Directory for that year.

In a road return dated July 17, 1838 (*Gloucester Co. Road Book, C, p. 32*) a road was laid out beginning at the Waterford Glass factory and running to Charles Wiltse's house at the south end of the causeway at David Albertson's Mill. In 1834, Jacob Leach applied for a tavern license for a house "near Albertson's Mill in the Township of Gloucester," known as the "Sign of the Sorrel Horse." The next year, David Albertson applied for a license "in the House Now occupied by Jacob Leach as such in the Township of Gloucester and on the Stage Road from Long-coming to Leed's Point." This tavern house was kept by him and his widow, Rebecca, for many years. The name Sorrel Horse Tavern appears to have been abandoned in a short time and it was later called Spring Garden Tavern.

Located in an almost unbroken forest, with only the nearby Egg Harbor trail as an outlet, it is difficult to see how the product was profitably gotten to market. This is especially true when we consider that this trail was a narrow and sandy one and that a pair of horses could not haul more than a few hundred feet of boards at a time.

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